

STARS AND STRIPES®

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volleyball
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Aviano's Ashley Mead



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2004

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A heartbreaking toll

Experts: Large percentage of older troops serving in combat means more children at risk of losing a parent Pages 4-5



PHOTOS BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS/SHNS

Dakota Givens, 6, rests on Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Sizmore's lap in the House of Representatives chambers in Washington. Dakota's father, Pfc. Jesse Givens (inset), a member of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, was killed in Iraq when his tank fell into the Euphrates River. Dakota's mother, Melissa Givens, holding son Carson, was honored along with Fort Carson troops as part of Military Appreciation Day. Dakota and Carson are among almost 900 children who have lost a military parent to the war in Iraq.

Air Force captain awarded Bronze Star

Crow improvised to get needed supplies delivered to Balad and Baghdad

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

Normally, going out to pick up dinner for your fellow airmen isn't an action that will earn you a Bronze Star.

But when you're an Air Force captain in Iraq leading a military-style convoys of rent-a-Chevrolet Suburbans into Baghdad to retrieve fresh food and supplies for your fellow airmen, your actions tend to get noticed.

That's what happened to Capt. Shirley Crow of the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, who was formally

awarded the Bronze Star at Ramstein Air Base on Dec. 17 for her service in Iraq in the last summer of 2003.

That's when Crow worked at Kirkuk Air Base as a squadron operations officer, organizing fleets of Air Force planes and Army vehicles, along with their cargo.

But at the time, Army convoy operations were still in their infancy, Crow said Tuesday, and supplies for airmen weren't reaching the northern Iraq air base.

"The stuff would get to Baghdad and that's as far as it would go unless we went and got it," she said.

So the 36-year-old captain did what any good airman would do: She improvised and found herself organizing ad hoc truck convoys to Balad and Baghdad, something she said she had "no training whatsoever" to do.

Crow said she and other airmen would drop in their unarmored Suburbans, "guns out the window [and] battle-rattle on" to depots to pick up supplies.

In addition, halfway through her 128-day deployment Crow had to take command of her squadron when the acting commander went home on emergency leave. In that job, Crow oversaw the move-

ment of millions of gallons of fuel, thousands of passengers and tons of cargo, keeping the vehicles running and the airmen fed while under periodic mortar attacks, her medal citation reads.

Crow's commander, Lt. Col. Jay Jennings, Deputy Commander of the 435th Logistics Readiness Group, said he was not surprised to see Crow receive the award, having known her since she was a junior officer at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina.

"I could see then she was going to be an excellent operations officer," Jennings said.

Email Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.esr.af.mil

Military wife finds her niche as a travel writer

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN, Germany — For Krista Dana, breaking into the world of travel writing came down to two things: a desperate editor and a set of well-written Christmas letters.

Searching for work as a youth counselor at Aviano Air Base, Italy, in the mid-1990s, the wife of a major assigned to NATO said she had reached a dead end in her hunt for a job that would draw on her new psychology degree.

But frequent moves were the bane of many a career-oriented military wife, she said, and after reaching her wife's end in Aviano, she started looking for a different way to adapt to her transient way of life.

Sending out a tall stack of letters in a shotgun pattern to editors in Europe and the United States, Dana started pitching ideas for travel stories. She got a

single response that she said, was literally one in 100.

"There was an editor in New York who had lost his Italy correspondent and had a deadline to meet, so he was as desperate as I was," Dana said.

The editor asked for samples of her writing, so she sent him the only thing she had: copies of Christmas letters sent to her family back home.

"[They were] just little snippets of travel writing," Dana said, but the editor was convinced. "Like I said ... he was desperate."

The break launched her into 10 years of writing hundreds of hotel, restaurant and ski resort reviews covering destinations around the globe. This fall, that experience led to the publication of the Ramstein-area resident's first book, "The Alps Adventure Guide," which hit bookstores Sept. 14.

A traveler's reference to 73 locations across six countries, Dana's book is a tutorial on everything from good places to paraglide in the mountains to where to find a hot meal in any number of tiny slope-side hamlets.

"Alps" also contains passages on cultural events and the history of the towns covered in the book, a feature Dana's friend Alex Grynkewicz said was his favorite of the guide, which he used on a recent trip to Zermatt, Switzerland.

"That's something you'd be hard pressed to find just walking around," he said.

To compile an adventure guide to such a diverse region is an accomplishment for someone who says she doesn't view herself as either a world-weary traveler or a particularly adventurous person.

"I don't see myself that way," Dana said at a cafe in Ramstein and, dressed in a very sensible, almost librarian-type wool sweater and turtleneck, hands cupped around a latte, she didn't particularly look "that way" either.

"I knew she was adventurous," said her husband, Maj. Matthew Dana, who works with NATO's



Photo courtesy of Alex Holman, Alpimages/Verder

Krista Dana, whose first book is called "The Alps Adventure Guide," gets cozy with a St. Bernard in the Alps. Dana, a military spouse who lives near Kaiserslautern, Germany, has turned her experience as a travel writer into the book published in September.

Combined Air Operations Center at Ramstein. "But I didn't see travel writing in her future."

Nor did his wife at first, she said. The offer to write hotel reviews came in the same week she landed a job at a youth center in Aviano — the very job she'd been searching for all along — and her decision on which one to take was tougher than might be expected, she said.

"That was stability versus ambiguity and the unknown," she said.

Choosing the latter and embarking on a career as a writer, Dana faced an almost identical quandary in 2002, when she got a contract to write "Alps" within days of being assigned to a doctoral program through Oklahoma University. Again, she struggled, she said.

"My take on it was, 'Screw the doctorate ... do the book,'" Matthew Dana said. But this time Krista took a different path: She accepted both.

These days, with the book in stores and her doctoral program in organizational leadership well on its way, Dana said she doesn't have plans to go back to a life of scouring Milan for swank clubs and testing cheese dishes in Geneva — even though she's had offers to write two more books.

Instead, Dana said for now she's going to focus on her doctoral dissertation — a study on innovative ways military spouses can find career fulfillment.

After spending her working days frequenting French restaurants and skiing in Switzerland for the past 10 years, it would be comforting to hear that Dana is leaving the business because it's really just a morass of train delays, lost luggage and crushing deadlines.

But the new author doesn't try to ease anyone's jealousy. "I will not complain," she said. "It was a dream project for me."

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Prison for Vilseck GI in child porn, steroids case

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

A Vilseck, Germany-based soldier will serve one year in prison after pleading guilty to charges of possessing analabolic steroids and child pornography.

Sgt. Sean M. Choy, 28, of the 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, also was ordered reduced to the lowest enlisted rank and handed a bad-conduct discharge by the military judge, Lt. Col. Robin Hall, at a court-martial Dec. 16 in Vilseck, according to a trial summary released Thursday by the 1st Infantry Division's Staff Judge Advocate's office.

According to the summary, Choy acknowledged using his personal computer in late 2003 to surf pornographic Web sites on the Internet. During one session, it said, he downloaded about 10 images of pre-pubescent girls in sexually explicit poses. In a search of his apartment, police found a diskette with some of the photos under his mattress, while others were on his computer's hard drive.

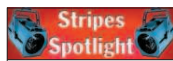
About the same time, the summary said, Choy ordered 1,000 analabolic steroid tablets from Thailand and wired a payment to the supplier.

German customs officials intercepted the shipment and ordered a search of Choy's off-base apartment.

According to the trial summary, that search turned up 96 steroid tablets, several vials containing liquid steroids, and a small cooler filled with syringes.

Choy's sentence will be reviewed by the court-martial convening authority, the Gersheim-based 1st Infantry Division Training Command. The sentence may be reduced, but it cannot be increased.

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Krista Dana

An accomplished reviewer of travel destinations, Dana's first book "The Alps Adventure Guide" was published in September. It is available at some Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores.

Adventure Guide

Job: Travel writer

Age: 36

Family: Married to Maj. Matthew Dana, who works with NATO's Combined Air Operations Center at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Hobby: Travel

Stars and Stripes

For the littlest survivors, the biggest loss

Almost 900 U.S. kids have had a parent killed in Iraq

BY LISA HOFFMAN AND ANNETTE RAINVILLE

Scripts Howard News Service

Sad to the depths of his 4-year-old soul, Jack Shanabarger knew what he didn't want to be when he grows up: a father.

"I don't want to be a daddy because daddies die," the child solemnly told his mother after his father, Staff Sgt. Wentz "Baron" Shanabarger, a military policeman from Fort Pierce, Fla., was killed March 23 in an ambush in Iraq.

On that terrible day, Jack and his four siblings joined the ranks of the largely overlooked American casualties who, until now, have gone uncounted. Although almost daily official announcements tally the war dead, no collateral damage to the children left behind has not been detailed.

But, from Defense Department casualty reports, obituaries and accounts in hometown newspapers and family interviews, Scripps Howard News Service has identified nearly 900 U.S. children who have lost a parent in the war, from the start of the conflict in March 2003 through November, when a total of 1,256 troops had died.

Although comparably specific historical data is not available for other U.S. wars, military experts said the proportionally higher number of American children left bereaved by the Iraq war is unprecedented.

"This is a new state of affairs we have to confront," said Charles Moskowitz, a leading military sociologist and Northwestern University professor.

Overall, Americans in uniform today are far more likely to be married and have children than in the military of the past, Moskowitz and others said. And the reliance in Iraq on reserve forces who tend to be older and less often settled than active-duty soldiers — also means more offspring at home.

Even though the federal government provides an array of benefits for widows, widowers and minor children, more help is needed — including counseling — for at least 882 American children left without a parent when the war in Iraq.

"As much as we are concerned about veterans' programs, we now have to be concerned about orphan programs," Moskowitz said. "This is the first time we have crossed this threshold."

According to Scripps research, more than 40 percent of the 1,256 war dead through November were married, and 429 had children. At least half of the youngsters were 10 years old or younger. Among the parents who died were six female sol-



Surrounded by family members, Corey Shanabarger holds daughter Grace, 3, during the funeral for her husband, Staff Sgt. Wentz "Baron" Shanabarger, whose casket is carried at right by the Army Honor Guard from Fort Stewart, Ga., out of the Coleman and Ferguson Funeral Home in Duette City, Fla. Shanabarger was killed in Iraq in an ambush. He left behind his wife and five children.

PHOTOS BY ST. PETERSBURG TIMES/SHNS

diers who had borne a total of 10 children among them — another historic first for women in the U.S. military.

Perhaps most heartbreaking are the more than 40 troops who died without ever seeing their children. At least 34 wives were pregnant — four with twins — when their husbands died, and another 15 had babies while their spouses were deployed. While some of the latter were able to return home on paternity leave, most died before they could.

Among those who never once held their babies was Army 1st Lt. Doyle Hufstetler, 25, of Abilene, Texas, who was killed in March when a roadside bomb hit

his armored personnel carrier near Habbaniyah. In his uniform pocket, Hufstetler carried a sonogram picture of his unborn daughter, the only image he would ever have of Grace Ashley, who arrived six weeks after his death.

Ursula Pirtle, 27, of La Mesa, N.M., was killed Oct. 3, 2003, in an insurgent attack north of Baghdad. "It's almost hard to look at her sometimes," Ursula Pirtle, who now lives in Harker Heights, Texas, wrote in a posthumous online letter to her husband. "I would give my right arm to get a

chance to see you two together. ... I know she would be the biggest joy you've ever known."

Despite their losses, Pirtle and most other surviving spouses say they still support the war. They say they are profoundly proud of their loved ones' willingness to give their lives for their country and to help bring democracy to Iraq. That pride helps their children cope as well.

Virginia Collier, of Harrison, Ark., found great solace in her husband's undimmed belief that the Iraq war was not only justified, but also engendering more good than the media has portrayed. A father of four, her husband, Army National Guard Sgt. Russell Collier, 48, was killed Oct. 3 trying to help a fellow soldier under fire in Taji, Iraq.

"He died doing what he loved," Veronica Collier told a local newspaper.

By all accounts, children also bring a measure of comfort to the bereaved spouses and other relatives, providing a tangible link to the parent who is gone. Hufstetler's widow, Leslie, said her daughter is a perpetual prod to get on with life.

War's toll includes six moms

Army Pfc. Lori Piestewa was not only the first female American soldier killed in combat in Iraq, she was also the first U.S. military mother to die in the war.

In all, six mothers in uniform have died in Iraq between the start of the war in March 2003 and the end of November, leaving behind a total of 10 children. Overall, 27 women troops have died in the war.

Among the mothers were:

■ Piestewa, 23, who died in the March 23, 2003, ambush in which Pfc. Jessica Lynch was captured in Nasiriyah. She had two children, Brandon, 4, and Caria, 3. Both now are being raised by their grandparents in El Paso, Texas.

■ Another single Army mother, Spc. Jessica Cawvey, joined the Illinois National Guard to build a better life for her daughter, Sierra, 6. Cawvey died Oct. 6 when a roadside bomb exploded as her convoy passed near Fallujah.

Cawvey, 21, "wasn't the military type," her mother, Sandra Cawvey, told a local newspaper. She enlisted in the Guard simply to help pay for college so she could get a decent job. Before she deployed to Iraq, Cawvey had been living with her parents and Sierra, and working on a bachelor's degree in accounting at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill.

The impact of Cawvey's death on Sierra was somewhat cushioned by the fact that the child is continuing to live with her grandparents. "She's doing just fine," said Clarence Cawvey, Jessica's uncle. "It's more like she lost a sister."

■ Less than a week after Cawvey died, Army Sgt. Pamela Osbourne was killed by shrapnel from a rocket attack on her camp in Baghdad. A native of Jamaica, Osbourne, 38, served in the military when she was 14 with two dreams — to become a U.S. citizen and to serve in the military.

A medical condition could have kept her out of Iraq duty, but Osbourne was determined to serve her country, her husband Rohan Osbourne told a local newspaper in Hollywood, Fla.

While she was deployed, her husband tended to their three children, ages 9 to 19. A support specialist, Osbourne managed to call home almost every day, between 5 and 6 a.m.

She made her husband promise not to hide anything from the kids if the worst happened.

"Even if I come home in a box, you should know that I did it for [all of] you. Take care of the kids. Stay strong," Osbourne told her spouse.

— Lisa Hoffman

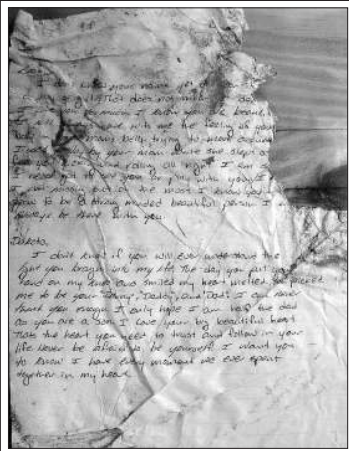


"This is a new state of affairs we have to confront. As much as we are concerned about veterans' programs, we now have to be concerned about orphan programs."

Charles Moskowitz

Military sociologist and Northwestern University professor

SEE LOSS ON PAGE 5



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS/SHS

A letter to Carson, Dakota and Melissa Givens, of Fountain, Colo. Pfc. Jesse Givens died when his tank fell into the Euphrates River in May 2003. This "in case of my death" letter was found on him.

In letters, fallen GIs leave their last words

Scripps Howard News Service

Here are excerpts from the last letters of fallen U.S. soldiers to their children.

'I can't say I love you enough'

Marine Staff Sgt. Russell Staff, 28, of Humble, Texas, who was killed Nov. 9 in Fallujah when his armored vehicle was attacked by insurgents, wrote the following in his last letter home to his daughter Kinlee, 9, and son Walker, 5.

"Tell Kinlee that I love her and never knew what life was before she was born... She'll always be Daddy's little girl... Daddy will always be with her and watching out for her. I'll miss you. Hugs and Kisses."

To Walker, "You're the sweetest little man. Be studious, stay in school and stay away from the military. I mean it. Always be a man. If you make mistakes, stand up and say so."

Staff told his daughter to go to college, and his son to have children of his own so he could "feel the joy and happiness you brought me..."

"My family was in my last thoughts. I can't say I love you enough."

'Please, be proud of me'

Army Pfc. Jesse Givens, 34, of Fountain, Colo., was killed May 1, 2003, when his tank tumbled into the Euphrates River when a

riverbank gave way. He wrote what follows to his sons, Dakota, 5, and Carson, who was born four weeks after Givens' death:

"Dakota — You are more son than I could ever ask for. I can only hope I was half the dad you taught me how to care until it hurts, you taught me how to smile again. You taught me that life isn't so serious and sometimes you have to play. You have a big, beautiful heart. Through life, you need to keep it open and soft to it."

"Never be afraid to be yourself. I will always be there in our park when you dream so we can still play together. I hope someday you will have a son like mine. Make them smile and shine just like you. I hope someday you will understand why I didn't come home. Please, be proud of me. Please don't stop loving life. Take in every breath like it's your first. I will always be there with you. I'll be in the sun, shadows, dreams and joys of your life."

"Bean [his pet name for the unborn Carson] — I never got to see you but I know in my heart you are beautiful. I will always have with me the feel of the soft nudges on your mom's belly, and the joy I felt when we found out you were on the way."

"I dream of every night, and I always will. Don't ever think that since I wasn't around that I didn't love you. You were conceived of love and I came to this terrible place for love. Please understand that I had to be gone so that I could take care of my family. I love you, Bean."

Loss: Trying to keep memories alive

LOSS, FROM PAGE 4
Now sharing a home with her parents in Charlotte, N.C., Hufstetler, 25, said she has been dreading the Christmas season, which would have been the first for her brand new family, but she has resolved to celebrate for Grace's sake.

In Hinesville, Ga., Denise Marshall also expects a sad Christmas, a holiday for which her husband, Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Marshall, once handled the biggest decorating chores.

That is the least of the new widows' problems. Since Marshall, 50, was killed in a rocket-propelled gun attack in April 2003, his wife has struggled financially and otherwise to care for their three children, all of whom have medical disabilities. The trio are getting counseling to help with their loss, but the emotional wound remains fresh.

More than a year after his father's passing, Marshall's son, Charles, 16, still has a hard time sleeping. Once, his mother said, Richard asked her, "Did Dad love his soldiers more than he loved us?"

The fierce love many fallen soldiers had for their children is evident in both the reasons they joined in the service and in letters and e-mails they sent home.

Pfc. Stephen Downing, 30, of Burkett, Ky., gave up his truck-driving job to join the Army to protect his "better life" for his children, Taylor, 9, and Stephen, 5.

"His kids were everything in the world for him," Downing's ex-wife, LeAnn Emmons, told a local newspaper. "A man with a soft spot for all children. Downing — killed Oct. 28 by a sniper in Ramadi — told his family he would also be fighting for the children of Iraq." He

"You might forget what your daddy looked like, but always remember what he felt like. Always remember his hugs, always remember his kisses and always remember his love."

Corey Shanaberger,

on what she tells her children to remember about their father, Staff Sgt. Wentz "Baron" Shanaberger, who died in Iraq



THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/SHS

Leslie Hufstetler's husband, Doyle, died in April, one month before his daughter, Grace, shown here at five months, was born. The only picture Doyle Hufstetler, of Abilene, Texas, would ever have of his unborn daughter was a sonogram image, which he kept in his uniform pocket.

told his kids that he wanted Iraqi kids to have the same opportunities [American]

kids do," Emmons said.

It was his own bottomless love for his wife and two daughters that gave rise to the worst fear for Army Chief Warrant Officer William Brennan, an Army helicopter pilot killed in a crash Oct. 16 on a mission to protect Iraqi civilians fleeing under fire from insurgents.

"It's not the fear of death that weighs me down. It is the feeling of not being there for my three girls," Brennan, 36, of Bethlehem, Conn., wrote in an Easter letter to his sister. Only two years old when his own father died, Brennan worried that, if he were killed, his children "would never

know me."

Corey Shanaberger, widow of the Florida MP killed in March, is doing everything she can so her children will remember their father in both life and death. Baron Shanaberger left instructions that, if he died, his five kids should be permitted to see him in his coffin, believing that would help them come to terms with his passing and provide them some closure.

At the funeral home viewing, Jack and his twin sister, Grace, climbed up so they could touch and kiss him in his open casket. The children placed precious mementos in the coffin with him — a little red truck, a stuffed puppy dog, a favorite doll, a photo.

Now, each night when the stars are out, Corey Shanaberger tells her children that one star is their daddy coming out of heaven to watch over them. They all blow a kiss to the sky.

"I always tell my children, 'You might forget what your daddy looked like, but always remember what he felt like,'" she said.

"Always remember his hugs, always remember his kisses and always remember his love."

Organizations that help survivors

Scripps Howard News Service

When a U.S. servicemember is killed on duty, his family is entitled to an array of benefits.

Among other help, the family can receive a one-time payment of \$12,000, burial benefits, life insurance proceeds, and at least \$967 a month in survivor compensation. In some cases, the Department of Veterans Affairs also will pay \$241 a month for each child left without a parent.

But, due to the vagaries of regulations and individual circumstances, the amount a surviving family receives varies. In many cases, does not stretch far enough to cover a family's expenses.

Across the country, some friends, relatives and co-workers of troops who have fallen in Iraq have set up funds for the bereaved families or for their children's educations.

There also are several national groups that help military families in need, and, in some cases, accept donations from the public. Among them are:

■ **Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.** Provides unrestricted grants to families of fallen troops. 212-245-0072. On the Web: www.intrepidmuseum.org/foundation_heroesfund.html

■ **Fallen Patriot Fund.** Provides financial grants to the families of those killed or seriously injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Call 214-658-7125. On the Web: www.fallenpatriotfund.org

■ **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).** Provides services to all who have lost a loved one while serving in the U.S. armed forces. 1-800-959-TAPS (8277). On the Web: www.taps.org

■ **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.** Provides financial assistance and emergency grants to families and survivors. On the Web: www.nmcrrs.org

Iraqis' fear keeps intel scarce in Samarra

BY JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post

SAMARRA, Iraq — The soldiers kicked the wooden doors open and swarmed through the houses, rolling up rugs, looking through cabinets, searching boxes, pushing aside couches. Within minutes, they had lined up the Iraqi men they had found inside. The men were taken outside and made to squat in the late-night darkness, their breath streaming out in faint, wispy clouds as their hands pushed flat against a concrete wall.

The soldiers were from the U.S. Army Special Forces, the Iraqi National Guard and Apache Company of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment out of Schweinfurt, Germany. They were looking for a suspected insurgent, but the insurgent was not there.

The Sunday night raid was what soldiers here call a "dry hole."

They received an intelligence tip, and it led to nothing. They broke down doors and interrogated people who appeared to have no connection to the war the United States is waging. The soldiers paid the families in U.S. dollars for the broken door jambs and the splintered cabinet doors that hung against the wall.

The frustrating dead end was a symptom of what officers here agree is a virtual intelligence meltdown in Samarra, a city 65

Residents refuse to help American troops after rebels step up attacks, intimidation

miles north of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle, where the insurgency runs deep.

Rebels have intimidated the local population, launching attacks from neighborhoods where residents fear the consequences of helping the American occupiers.

"It's all about intimidation," said Lt. Col. Eric O. Schacht, commander of the Army's 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, which oversees Samarra. Schacht said the spreading fear had stymied his unit's ability to gather intelligence. "The residents do know who the bad guys are. They're afraid. It's a daily struggle that we have to fight."

"We just always have to get ahead" of the insurgents, he added. "They're pretty good at getting their message out."

The message is carried in mighty explosions that rock this city, in AK-47 assault rifle fire, in mortar attacks, and even in carefully placed propaganda that warns Iraqis that cooperation with the Americans will not be tolerated. Masked men arrive at the doors of Samarrians who have been seen talking to soldiers. The residents are told that if they provide any assistance to the soldiers, they will be killed.

On Tuesday afternoon, soldiers from

Bushmaster Company of the 1-26 Infantry cleared residents out of a neighborhood where they were preparing to detonate what was believed to be an improvised bomb. One man came to his front gate and timidly spoke with an interpreter working for the U.S. forces. Mohammed Hassan, 42, his eyes darting across the large dirt lot next to his home, said he was uncomfortable letting American soldiers onto his roof to secure the area.

Just days earlier, Hassan's uncle had been killed for opposing the insurgents. Hassan moved his son out of the area because insurgents threatened to kill his family if he continued to let the soldiers into his home. Masked men came to his door.

"Of course we are afraid. Of course we don't want to help," Hassan said.

The insurgents have become bolder in the past few weeks, posting signs at schools that say the United States is losing the war and claiming that American forces suffered tens of thousands of casualties in the battle for Fallujah. When a soldier went to remove one of the signs on Tuesday, someone fired a machine gun at him.

At another school, graffiti supported

"Jihad in Samarra" and assailed Iraqi government officials as "dogs who obey the Americans." Residents blame foreigners, claiming the insurgents are Syrians or Iranians. They deny that Iraqis could be doing this to their own people.

"There are thieves in Samarra," said the headmaster of one school for girls, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "I don't know them, and I hate them. They have threatened to kidnap me, and I am very afraid of them. But we need help from the Americans. We need democracy."

Forced to gather intelligence in such an environment, U.S. soldiers have become more like heavily armed police officers, patrolling the streets to keep crime down and protect citizens from random explosions and gunfire. Some troops limit the effort to community policing — walking a beat and learning the neighborhood to gain trust and confidence from residents.

"Without good intelligence and knowledge of where the bad guys are, we can't chase the bad guys," said Capt. Benjamin Martin, the Apache Company commander. "They don't wear uniforms. It makes it very difficult to know their locations and their targeting. We have to jump on every little piece of intel we get, and often that leads to misfocused efforts, bothering people we don't need to bother, and frustration."

Mysterious front companies hindering oil-for-food inquiry

BY SAM CAGE

The Associated Press

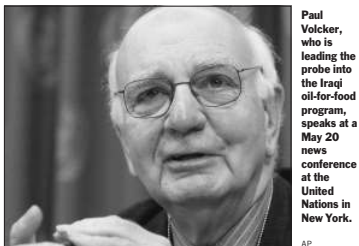
GENEVA — The U.N.-ordered probe into oil-for-food corruption is being seriously hampered by an elaborate system of ghost firms set up around the world to cover the tracks of bribes to Saddam Hussein as he cheated the \$60 billion program, a top investigator said.

Some front companies in this global oil trading center and elsewhere that dealt with Saddam have been liquidated or have hidden ownership, complicating the search for evidence of financial improprieties, said Swiss criminal lawyer Mark Pieth. He's one of three commission members leading the probe headed by former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker.

Major oil trading companies and individuals — from American businessmen to French, Chinese and Russian politicians — are suspected of benefiting from lucrative Iraqi oil contracts that involved kickbacks, according to the independent panel's initial findings.

The who profited may have been able to hide behind a web of fiction by making transactions through ghost firms that exist mostly on paper, Pieth told The Associated Press.

Despite the thin trail, Pieth said he was confident investigators would ultimately trace the funds back to those who may have made illicit profits — or allowed Saddam and his cronies to profit legally — during the oil-for-food program, which existed from 1996 until 2003.



"It is a problem. Yes, of course it is, but on the other hand we also have means of finding the beneficial owners," Pieth said. "There is usually a file, if the banks have their job."

Pieth said national authorities and banks in Switzerland and other nations were more than willing to handle oil-for-food deals should have records of who was behind the firms.

"Switzerland and Liechtenstein have promised to help," Pieth said of the two countries where more than two dozen companies got oil under the program, according to an AP examination of records.

Neither nation is known for having oil reserves of its own. But according to a list Volcker released

of 248 companies that "lifted," or exported, Iraqi oil under the program, companies based in Switzerland took more than those from any other country except France and Russia. The tiny principality of Liechtenstein — which has 33,000 inhabitants — came in eighth on the list.

Volcker has said that being on the list doesn't necessarily imply guilt in paying kickbacks.

Switzerland and Liechtenstein are among countries whose lax regulations and traditions of discretion in business and banking make them attractive for trading companies.

Front companies registered in other tax havens — such as Cyprus, Jordan, Panama, Curacao in the Caribbean, and Jersey in

Countries participating in oil-for-food program

According to a U.N.-ordered inquiry, these are the top 10 countries that purchased oil from Iraq under the oil-for-food program from 1996 until 2003:

Top 10 countries	In billions
1. Russia	\$19.26
2. France	4.39
3. Switzerland	3.48
4. Britain	3.38
5. Turkey	3.34
6. Italy	2.72
7. China	2.63
8. Liechtenstein	2.47
9. Spain	1.64
10. Malaysia	1.49

The United States is listed in 26th place at \$482.83 million.

SOURCE: United Nations

AP

the Channel Islands off the United Kingdom — also feature in the oil-for-food investigation.

The program, which began in 1996 and ended last year after the U.S. invasion ousted Saddam, allowed Iraq to trade about \$60 billion worth of oil for food, medicine and other necessities that became scarce under strict U.N. economic sanctions imposed after the Gulf War. The program was credited with preventing widespread starvation.

Congressional investigators who also are looking into corruption at the program said in November that they had uncovered evidence Saddam's government raised more than \$21.3 billion in illegal revenue by subverting U.N. sanctions and the oil-for-food program.

Volcker's independent commission was set up this year at the request of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to investigate the program. Pieth is the second commissioner and the third is South African Richard Goldstone, who prosecuted Yugoslav war crimes.



Mark Pieth

A preliminary report on findings is expected to be released in January, but the \$30 million probe isn't expected to be finished until well into 2005.

"We're not going to do diplomatic soft talk," Pieth said. "If there's something to be said, we are going to name these people involved."

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Iraqi general: Suicide bomber was not Guard

By BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Last week's suicide attack in a U.S. base in Mosul was not carried out by a member of the Iraqi security forces, although the attacker may have been wearing an Iraqi uniform, the head of Iraq's armed forces said Sunday.

"Certainly he was not a member of the National Guards because all of our men stationed in the base have been accounted for," Gen. Babaker B. Shawkat Zebari said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He spoke as the Ansar al-Sunna Army group, which has claimed responsibility for the Mosul strike, released a video of what appeared to be the actual bombing.

On Tuesday, an attacker blew himself up in a crowded mess hall at the Marez base just south of Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, 22 miles northwest of Baghdad. The explosion, the deadliest strike on a U.S. military facility, triggered a wide-ranging investigation into how the attacker penetrated the heavily guarded area.

Asked about President Bush's comments in which he said members of Iraq's fledgling military force were fleeing from combat, Zebari replied: "I think the president received misleading information."

The general said none of his soldiers had deserted from the battlefield, but acknowledged that some recruits undergoing training decided to quit after they were told they would be posted to the restive city of Fallujah that was retaken from insurgents last month by U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Zebari said the troubled northern city of Mosul was under control of U.S. and government forces and that "more military units are being sent there to restore calm."

Eighteen Americans were killed in the attack — 13 service members and five U.S. civilian contractors — and three Iraqi guardsmen and one unidentified

"non-U.S. person," according to figures released by the U.S. military.

Of the 69 wounded, 44 were U.S. military personnel and the remainder American civilians, Iraqi troops and other foreigners. Zebari said Iraqi forces are getting stronger every day and that he expected them to be capable of replacing the Americans within six months to a year.

Footage of attack

BAGHDAD — The radical Islamic group that claimed responsibility for the deadliest attack on a U.S. base in Iraq released on Sunday dramatic videotape showing three militants describing their plans to carry out the suicide bombing, which killed more than 20 people.

The footage also shows what ap-

pears to be the attack itself, showing a fireball rising up and a torn white tent. In the Dec. 21 attack, a bomber — probably dressed in an Iraqi military uniform — slipped into a dining tent packed with soldiers eating lunch and set off his explosives at Forward Operating Base Marez on the outskirts of the city of Mosul in northern Iraq, according to U.S. officials.

In the new video, which carried

a Dec. 20 date on the footage, three guerrillas clad in black, wearing face masks and carrying AK-47 automatic rifles describe their plans.

One of the men read a statement saying another of the three — identified as Abu Omar al-Musali — would carry out the attack by breaking into the base through the perimeter fence.

From The Associated Press



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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,323 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1034 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army 1st Lt. Christopher W. Barnett, 32, Baton Rouge, La.; died Thursday in Baghdad when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, Strykerport, La.

IN THE WORLD

Massive quake kills thousands in Asia

Tsunamis crush several nations

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The world's most powerful earthquake in 40 years struck deep under the Indian Ocean off the west coast of Sumatra on Sunday, triggering tidal waves up to 20 feet high that obliterated villages and seaside resorts in six countries across southern and southeast Asia. At least 8,000 people were killed in the devastation.

Tourists, fishermen, homes and cars were swept away by walls of water that rolled across the Bay of Bengal, unleashed by the 8.9-magnitude earthquake. The tsunami waves barreled nearly 3,000 miles across the ocean to Java, where at least nine people were killed in Somalia.

In Sri Lanka, 1,000 miles west of the epicenter, more than 3,000 people were killed, the country's top police official said, that number, however, does not include the 1,500 deaths reported by rebels who control part of the country.

Nearly 2,500 were reported dead in Indonesia, and about 2,300 along the southern coasts of India.



Residents carry a body of a victim Sunday after tidal waves hit following an earthquake in Lhokseumawe, Aceh province, Indonesia. The quake registered 8.9 on the Richter scale, and thousands are dead.

At least 289 were confirmed dead in Thailand, 42 in Malaysia and 2 in Bangladesh.

But officials expected the death toll to continue to rise, with hundreds reported missing and all communications cut off to towns in the Indonesian island of Sumatra that were closest to the epicenter. Hundreds of bodies

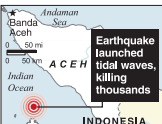
were found on various beaches along India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, and more were expected to be washed in by the sea, officials said.

The rush of tsunami waves brought sudden disaster to people carrying out their daily activities on the ocean's edge. Sunbathers on the beaches of the Thai resort

of Phuket were washed away. A group of 32 Indians — including 15 children — were killed while taking a ritual Hindu bath to mark the full moon day. Fishing boats, with their owners clinging to their sides, were picked up by the waves and discarded.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake at a magnitude of

8.9 quake rocks northern Indonesia



SOURCES: ESRI; USGS

See related story on Page 10

8.9. Geophysicist Julie Martinez said it was the world's fifth-largest since 1900 and the largest since a 9.2 temblor hit Prince William Sound Alaska in 1964.

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Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, with his son Taras, 2, votes in Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday. Exit polls show Yushchenko winning.

3 exit polls give Yushchenko win

BY JUDITH INGRAM
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Three exit polls projected Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko the winner by a commanding margin over Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich in Sunday's fiercely fought presidential rematch.

A glum-looking Yanukovich told reporters, "If we fail, we will form a strong opposition." He did not concede defeat, saying, "I am ready to lead the state," and hinted that he would challenge the results in court. The first official results are not expected until Monday morning.

The exit polls tracked an unprecedented third-round presidential election, which was watched by an army of foreign observers stationed at polls to prevent the kind of fraud that sparked weeks of protests in the streets of Kiev, the capital, and sent a flurry of recriminations flying between Russia and the West after last month's court-annulled run-off.

The state-funded Ukrainian Institute of Social Research and Social Monitoring Center showed Yushchenko winning with 58.1 percent of the vote and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich garnering 38.4 percent. The margin of error was 2 percentage points.

The Western-funded Razumkov Center of Political Studies and Kiev International Institute of Sociology showed Yushchenko win-

ning with 56.5 percent and Yanukovich collecting 41.3 percent of the vote, with no margin of error given.

A third exit poll, by Frank Lantz, a pollster for the U.S. Republican Party, and Douglas Schoen, of the Washington-based market research company Penn, Schoen & Berland, showed Yushchenko winning with 56 to Yanukovich's 41 percent, Schoen said. The margin of error was 2 percentage points.

The contest was a momentous political event for Ukraine, a nation of 48 million people torn between an eastward-expanding European Union and NATO, and an increasingly assertive Russia, its former imperial and Soviet-era master.

Yushchenko, a former Central Bank chief and prime minister, hopes to take Ukraine closer to the West and to push through economic and political reforms. The Kremlin-backed Yanukovich, the current prime minister, emphasized tightening the Slavic country's ties with Russia as a means of maintaining stability.

Yushchenko has promised to uproot the corruption which saw the former Soviet republic's wealth concentrated in the hands of about a dozen businessmen. Yanukovich has promised to continue work to boost Ukraine's economy — which enjoys the fastest growth rate in Europe — and pledged an increase in wages and pensions.

Private and government aid teams sent to southern Asia countries hit by major quake

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO
The Associated Press

ROME — Private and government aid teams are being sent Sunday from several European capitals to southern Asian countries swamped by waves after the region was rocked by the world's most powerful quake in 40 years. Pope John Paul II lent his moral voice to calls for the international community to help.

The International Red Cross in Geneva issued an initial appeal for donations of \$6.7 million in cash, relief goods or services for the next six months.

The 8.9-magnitude quake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra triggered devastating tidal wave flooding.

"Thousands have already died because of the flooding, but unless there is a rapid response to the emergency, many more people could die in the coming days," said Jasmine Whitbread, international director of the aid group Oxfam. "The flood waters will have contaminated drinking water and food will be scarce."

Said David Alexander, international director of the British Red Cross: "We are in for a big emergency disaster response, and we will be at it for many months to come."

President Bush expressed his "sincere condolences" Sunday to the victims of the massive earthquake and tidal waves that hit southern and southeast Asia.

"The United States stands

Earthquakes' deadly toll

Earthquakes are one of the most deadly natural disasters and can claim lives by the thousands. The earthquake that hit Sunday has killed at least 7,000.

Deadly earthquakes, since 1902

DATE	LOCATION	DEATHS
1976	China	255,000
1920	China	200,000
1927	China	200,000
1923	Japan	143,000
1948	Turkmenistan	110,000
1908	Italy	70,000*
1932	China	70,000
1970	Peru	66,000
1990	Iran	40,000*
1935	Pakistan	30,000*

* at least

Source: U.S. Geological Survey
ready to offer all appropriate assistance to those nations most affected," the president said in a statement issued aboard Air Force One.

Hours after Europe woke up to the news of thousands of deaths and wide areas of evacuated villages in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Maldives and elsewhere, the pope coupled his prayers for the victims "of this enormous tragedy" with an appeal to the international community to quickly act.

In Britain, Save the Children

said a team was flying out Sunday night to help workers already in Sri Lanka, and World Vision, another aid group, said its staff in the region was delivering aid to those in need. In Sri Lanka, World Vision said, two workers were putting up 100 people in their homes.

The Italian Foreign Ministry's crisis unit was coordinating EU aid efforts, and Italy, Sweden, Germany and Britain were among the first to send teams of technical experts.

"We are doing all we can to offer practical help and support," said Britain's International Development Secretary Hilary Benn.

The German government released emergency aid funding.

In Austria, relief officials and charities such as Caritas and Volkshilfe issued urgent appeals cash donations.

The Dutch Red Cross was flying in blankets, tents and medicine, with priority going to Sri Lanka, said Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman Esther van Damme.

In Brussels, EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Luis Michel said it was important to bring aid "in those vital hours and days immediately after the disaster." The 25-nation EU will deliver million \$4 million in emergency aid as a start.

The Greek Foreign Ministry said a C-130 cargo plane was ready to offer assistance, and the Kuwaiti government said it was sending \$1 million in aid.

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IN THE STATES

Holiday air travel turns into nightmare

Computer glitch cancels Comair flights; US Airways loses track of piles of luggage

The Associated Press

HEBRON, Ky. — Days of bad weather, a computer malfunction and sick airline employees put tens of thousands of travelers in holiday limbo Saturday, with Comair canceling all its flights and US Airways trying to reconnect thousands of pieces of luggage with their owners.

Thronges of waiting passengers milled about at Comair's hub at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. At Philadelphia International Airport, several hundred people stood in long lines at sparsely staffed US Airways check-in counters and piles of suitcases were scattered throughout the baggage claim area.

Cynthia Mayer, waiting to return home to Hilton Head, S.C., on a Comair flight from Cincinnati, lost both her flight and her luggage, and said her earliest flight home would be late Monday night.

"They offered me a toothbrush — a kit with a toothpaste and a toothbrush," Mayer said, chuckling.

Comair, a Delta Air Lines subsidiary, canceled all its 1,100 flights on Saturday because computer problems knocked out its system that manages flight assignments, company spokesman Nick Miller said. The cancellations affected 30,000 travelers in 118 cities, he said.

Comair put some of its passenger planes back in the air Sunday and the airline hoped to be operating a full schedule by the end of the week, a spokesman said.

"The situation is still pretty fluid. Our goal is to operate as many flights as possible," said Nick Miller, a spokesman for the Delta subsidiary that is based at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

Comair's computer system that manages flight assignments crashed Friday night after it was overwhelmed by cancellations and delays caused by the winter storm that socked the Ohio Valley. The computer shutdown forced the airline to cancel all of its Saturday flights.

Miller said he did not know how many flights there would be Sunday or the destinations.

He said technicians were continuing to repair the computer system.

"Obviously, we're working to get as much of the schedule back up and running in the subsequent days so we can hopefully resume our full schedule no later than the end of the week, sooner if possible," Miller said.

US Airways, meanwhile, had passengers and thousands of pieces of luggage stranded at Philadelphia International Airport — for the third day in a row.

The airline blamed the canceled flights — including 143 on Saturday — and baggage backups on severe weather Thursday compounded by record numbers of employees calling in sick, according to a company statement.

Systemwide, the airline canceled 80 flights Saturday and 176 flights Friday, airline spokeswoman Amy Kudwa said.

Spokespeople for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, which represents US Airways baggage handlers, and the Association of Flight Attendants said they had not organized any job actions.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta has directed senior officials to talk with US Airways management about



Luggage is piled up in the US Airways terminal at Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia on Friday. The airline said bad weather caused the problem.

problems at the airport, Transportation Department spokesman Robert Johnson said Saturday.

Philadelphia is a US Airways hub, but the baggage backups extended to other East Coast airports.

In Virginia, hundreds of unclaimed bags from US Airways flights were piled at Richmond International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Extra flights carrying nothing but lug-

gage were scheduled to fly from Philadelphia to the airline's bag processing facility in Charlotte, N.C., where workers could help process bags more quickly, Kudwa said.

Struggling US Airways, bankrupt for the second time in two years, says it needs to drastically cut labor costs if it is to survive beyond mid-January, when its interim financing arrangement with the federal government's Air Transportation Stabilization Board is set to expire.



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Parts of U.S. shiver during frightful Christmas weather

Travel is heavy despite record snowfall and slick highways

BY NATASHA GURAL

The Associated Press

Bomber Nature delivered a mother-chilling Christmas to much of the nation Saturday, but holiday travelers made it out. Snow showers despite record snow that shut down highways two days earlier in the central states.

South Texas awoke to a rare blanket of snow, when up to 13 inches shattered records for the region. The deep freeze brought Victoria, Texas, its first white Christmas in 86 years and snarled holiday plans for thousands of travelers.

"It's totally snowed over," Tawnya Evans, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Corpus Christi, said Saturday.

"It's unusual to see that here."

"A bunch of people are excited because it's a white Christmas." The snow was expected to melt as temperatures warmed into the 30s and 40s throughout Christmas Day, but Evans said some of it could refreeze overnight.

Conditions on Indiana high-

ways were improving Saturday, two days after a winter storm dumped up to two feet of snow in some areas, followed by subzero temperatures.

Indiana State Police said Interstate 65 near Seymour was still slick in spots on Saturday, but traffic was moving. They said almost all highways in southern Indiana were still covered by snow or ice.

The wintry mix caused hours-long delays on I-65 about midway between Indianapolis and Louisville, Ky., on Friday, when several semitrailers were jackknifed or stuck.

Authorities reopened a portion of Interstate 64 from the Illinois state line to Evansville in southwestern Indiana Friday, a day after more than 100 stranded travelers were rescued from their snowbound vehicles, which hampered snow and salt trucks from clearing the highway, police said.

In Ohio, about 175,000 homes and businesses remained without power — down from 327,000 on Thursday. Some commuters might not have electricity restored until Monday, American Electric Power officials said.

A few small churches in rural areas of south-central Indiana canceled Christmas services, while even more called off Christmas Eve services to keep parishioners off the treacherous roadways.

Started New Orleans residents saw snow falling steadily — the first Christmas snow in 50 years and the first time in 15 years the city recorded any snowfall at all.

Freezing rain, sleet and low temperatures forced Louisiana state police to shut down interstates and state highways on Saturday.

Also in the South, freezing rain and snow coated parts of the Carolinas on Sunday, knocking out power to thousands of customers and making highways slippery for after-Christmas shoppers.

A layer of ice one-quarter to one-half of an inch thick weighed down branches and power lines in South Carolina's Midlands and Pee Dee regions.

Up to four inches of snow had fallen by late morning in North Carolina's eastern Piedmont and northern Coastal Plain.

College Republicans' fund raising under fire

THOMAS B. EDSELL

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The College Republican National Committee is under fire for using front organizations to collect millions of dollars in contributions, including money from elderly people with dementia.

During the 2004 campaign, the group sent out direct mail solicitations under such letterheads as "Republican Headquarters 2004" and "Republican Election Committee."

One four-page letter asked prospects to send \$1,000 together with an American flag pin for President Bush to wear to "Republican

Headquarters" to ensure that Bush knows "there are millions who are giving him the shield of God to protect him in the difficult days ahead."

In small print at the bottom of one page, the letter notes: "A project of and paid for by College Republican National Committee."

Many donors complained that they thought the money was going directly to the Republican Party, and not to the college group, which no longer is affiliated with the GOP. The controversy over the letters has produced angry responses from leaders of state college Republican chapters, including those in Washington state, North Carolina and New York.

See more nation stories on Page 16

The University of Washington College Republicans approved a resolution calling on Eric Hoplin, chairman of the national committee, "to take full responsibility for his actions," acknowledge that those actions have substantially harmed the College Republicans grass-roots organization and "promptly resign."

Dan Centinello, New York College Republicans chairman, complained that the national leaders

had not taken prompt and decisive action to correct the situation. "I don't want to see hard work of all of us be tarnished by a fundraising scandal," he said.

Internal disputes over fundraising tactics have been brewing among the College Republican groups for at least three years, but they surfaced in late October, after publication of damaging news reports in the *Seattle Times* and the *Durham Herald-Sun*.

The *Times* reported that a number of elderly donors gave far more money than they could afford.

In the immediate aftermath, Hoplin e-mailed top state officials, Hoplin e-mailed top state officials, Hoplin e-mailed top state officials

not to speak to the news media. "We need the story to go away," he wrote. "The story is full of lies and distortions written by a well-known liberal who is out to get us. If the press asks you about it, tell them you have no comment."

Hoplin declined to be interviewed for this report.

He told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, "We've come to discover that there are a few donors who have been confused, a few donors who have some form of dementia, who aren't entirely sure of the amount of money that they're giving, and how often they're giving." He said that any donors who believe they were misled will have their money refunded.

NASA eyes parachutes to prevent jet crashes

BY TED BRIDIS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rancher Albert Kolb's small plane banked uncontrollably in darkness over Canada's Monashee Mountains, then began spiraling toward earth. "Seat belts!" he barked to his teenage grandson and two young friends. Then he reached for a red lever in the cockpit.

Suddenly, an orange-and-white parachute as big as a house opened above the plane and gently landed his stricken aircraft in a rocky clearing.

If the maker of the parachute that saved Kolb's life this past spring succeeds, one day commercial aircraft like regional commuter jets may have similar safety systems. First, though, there's the challenge of creating a parachute robust enough to rescue bigger, faster planes.

"Weight and speed are always the challenge," acknowledged Robert Nelson, chairman of Ballistic Recovery Systems Inc., which sold about 500 of its \$15,000 parachute systems this year for use by small private planes and pilots like Kolb.

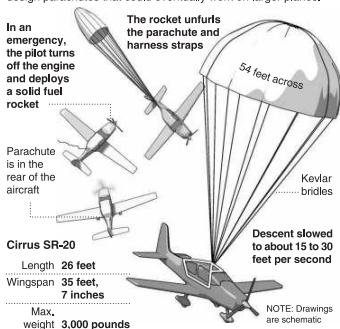
The company's most advanced parachute right now can accommodate nearly 4,000 pounds.

While small planes can weigh up to 4,000 pounds and cruise at about 175 miles per hour, regional jets weigh 80,000 pounds and fly at more than 600 miles per hour.

That's why Ballistic Recovery

Just a plane parachute

Ballistic Recovery Systems manufactures parachutes for small planes such as the Cirrus SR-20, and is working with NASA to design parachutes that could eventually work on larger planes.



Source: Ballistic Recovery Systems Inc., Cirrus Design Corp.

AP

Systems is working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration — which gave it \$670,000 for research — to design a new generation of emergency parachutes that would work on small jets and could be steered by pilots as they drift to the ground.

Kolb, who was piloting his private plane April 8 from Seattle to his ranch in British Columbia, remembered reaching for the parachute handle as his plane slipped into a dangerous flat spin over the mountains in British Columbia, "like how a dog catches its tail."

Kolb's experience is one of four

cases where parachute-equipped planes landed safely beneath a canopy since U.S. regulators approved the system six years ago. Ballistic Recovery Systems, based in St. Paul, Minn., says eight lives were saved in those four incidents, plus dozens of other people in accidents involving smaller parachute-equipped ultralight planes that resemble motorized gliders.

The parachute, stored behind the rear seats in small planes, is fired with a rocket through the rear windshield; it's attached with high-strength lines to the plane's wings, nose and tail.

Ancient village's remains halt bridge construction

TOMAS ALEX TIZON

Los Angeles Times

SEATTLE — If it had been just one skeleton, the project would have continued. Even a few dozen skeletons might not have been enough to persuade Washington state officials to abandon a \$283 million bridge-repair project along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, about 65 miles northwest of here.

But what construction workers stumbled upon went beyond anything ever found in the Pacific Northwest:

An ancient Indian village dating back 17 centuries, with lodges, dance halls and cemeteries containing hundreds of skeletal remains. So far, nearly 300 complete skeletons have been unearthed, many of them buried in clusters, including entire extended families.

Men and women lay in ritual embrace. Infants were buried with mothers, the young and the old lay side by side, as many as 11 in one grouping.

"This is just the tip. There could be thousands of people buried there," said David Rice, a senior archaeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Seattle, who characterized the site as potentially the largest prehistoric village and burial grounds ever found in the United States.

Rice said parts of the village, which has been identified as the ancient settlement of Tse-whit-zen, were at least 1,700 years old.

The skeletons are believed to be the ancestors of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, who still live near the site, just outside Port Angeles. The leaders of the 900-member tribe asked the state to halt the construction project. In a letter to transportation officials, tribal Chairwoman Frances Charles explained that the daily exhumations were "just overwhelming everybody."

Last week, 15 months and \$58 million into the project, the state complied. The heavy machines rumbled to a halt. Construction workers began packing up.

The project, part of a major overhaul of the aging Hood Canal Bridge, which connects the Olympic Peninsula to the rest of the state, is on hold.

"Money is money, and we regret we couldn't have made the decision earlier so we could have saved some," said Doug MacDonald, state secretary of transportation. "But what has been discovered has an importance that money can't value. We started out fixing one kind of bridge, but we ended up finding a bridge into the past."

"We started out fixing one kind of bridge, but we ended up finding a bridge into the past."

Doug MacDonald
Washington state secretary of transportation

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OPINION

Why not hold Rumsfeld to same standard?

When I heard President Bush praising Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld last week, my mind strayed to the story of two Army reservists who've served months in the brig.

Trudy Rubin



Maj. Cathy Kaus and Chief Warrant Officer Darrell Birt arrived in Kuwait in March 2003, but their unit didn't get enough trucks to carry crucial equipment into Iraq. So the two officers commandeered some abandoned Army trucks by the roadside, loaded up and headed for Tikrit.

Their reward? A court-martial for theft, and dishonorable discharges.

"The soldiers were held accountable for their actions," an Army spokesman said. In other words, Kaus and Birt were punished for breaking the rules so their troops could carry out their mission.

But no one holds Rumsfeld accountable for undermining the mission and undercutting the troops.

The recent flap over unarmored Humvees — and Rumsfeld's flip remarks to a reservist who complained about having to scavenge for armor — are part of a bigger pattern.

The reason why 50,000 reservists were sent to war in 2003 with outdated body armor, and why families had to raise funds to send their loved ones Kevlar vests with ceramic plates. There's a reason so many Humvees and trucks are still unarmored.

There's a reason Kaus and Birt had to im-

provise to sustain their mission: Rumsfeld refused to recognize the nature of the situation into which he sent those troops.

Rumsfeld was so eager to test out his new, lean military machine that he didn't want to plan for the likelihood of instability after Saddam Hussein fell. The State Department, the CIA and many military commanders urged that more forces be available to establish order after the war. No way, said Rumsfeld.

According to the Pentagon, the aftermath of the war was supposed to be easy. No military police were sent in to post war law enforcement, which encouraged the rise of the insurgents. Pentagon officials talked about drawing down to 50,000 U.S. troops by fall of 2003.

No wonder no one paid attention to the reservists. They weren't supposed to be on the front lines. The Pentagon never contemplated the prospect of an insurgency, in which the front lines are everywhere.

Even as the insurgency took root — in the fall of 2003 — Rumsfeld refused to admit the situation was urgent. As late as this month, he tried to blame the shortage of armored Humvees on lack of production capacity.

Yet the manufacturers of Humvees and armored planes for the U.S. military say they aren't running near capacity. They say the Pentagon just hadn't asked them to produce more.

Rumsfeld's fierce resistance to admitting to problems has cost U.S. troops dearly. ...

The exit date of U.S. troops depends, as President Bush admits, on when Iraqi armed forces are capable of securing their country. Rumsfeld's mismanagement ensures that date won't come any time soon.

In March, the secretary claimed that Iraq had 200,000 security forces "taking over re-



sponsibility for the country." This puffed-up figure was meaningless; most were untrained police or security guards, not forces trained to fight insurgents. ...

President Bush admitted last week that the results of U.S. training efforts were "mixed, in terms of standing up Iraqi units who are willing to fight."

Why such poor results? Again, responsibility lies with Rumsfeld.

For nearly a year after Baghdad's fall, the Pentagon preferred to pursue its political vision of a new kind of Arab country without

an army rather than equip Iraqis to fight their own bad guys.

Rumsfeld chose to disband the Iraqi army, instead of vetting and retraining some units. He nixed Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's plan to bring back five Iraqi army divisions. ...

Iraq's security forces and our own have been bitterly served by these lapses. Isn't it time that someone on high — rather than loyal reservists — is held responsible for the Pentagon's mistakes?

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Military transformation among secretary's successes

BY NEWT GINGRICH

The recent calls for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to step down four days after a good opportunity to step back and review his record from the last year.

Shortly after Mr. Rumsfeld began what would be his second tour of duty as secretary of defense, he made it clear that he would do what it takes to begin transforming the military and its supporting bureaucracies into a force capable of meeting the threats of the 21st century.

In his 2001 Senate confirmation hearing, Mr. Rumsfeld testified, "The old difference of the Cold War era is imperfect for dissuading the threats of the 21st century and for maintaining stability our new security environment."

In the face of enormous internal opposition, Mr. Rumsfeld, who under President Ford directed a military that stood ready to face the might of the Warsaw Pact, began in the summer of 2001 to transform the defense bureaucracy by forcing it to recognize that the Cold War was over. He then began implementing the necessary changes.

Most notably, he undertook an extraordinarily complicated set of negotiations with our allies to move forces from obsolete and expensive Cold War positions in Europe and East Asia to much more useful and less expensive positions from where they can be more effective in defending America.

Just weeks after Mr. Rumsfeld's Defense Department transformation plan had begun, the United States was attacked on Sept. 11.

By now the response to that attack is well

known. Mr. Rumsfeld took control and led the remarkably successful campaign in Afghanistan, which led in short order to the defeat of the Taliban and the destruction of its terrorist training camps.

Even during ongoing military campaigns, Mr. Rumsfeld never wavered from his objectives. In the summer of 2003, in order to accelerate transformation in the Army, he brought Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker out of retirement to become Army chief of staff. [They were] able to move personnel from noncombat to combat units, enabling them with additional reorganization to create 15 newly restructured combat brigades.

Also, because of Mr. Rumsfeld's plan, our military is more flexible, more agile and better able to fight unconventional enemies. ...

Moreover, he was able to move military personnel out of jobs that should be and are now held by civilians. Under this reorganization, Army troop levels increased (by

30,000), as did the number of combat brigades, making a draft unnecessary despite some critics' claims that one was imminent.

At the same time, Mr. Rumsfeld directed the global war on terrorism through the Special Operations Command. The effort has helped other countries hunt down, capture or kill terrorists in dozens of countries. The combined effort has resulted in three-fourths of al-Qaida's senior leadership being killed or captured, while the organization's mastermind, Osama bin Laden, remains a powerless international fugitive.

Finally, there is Iraq. The military performed brilliantly in the 23-day campaign led by Gen. Tommy Franks that defeated the dangerous Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein.

Today, Mr. Rumsfeld is working closely with the ambassador to Iraq, John D. Negroponte, to help create an interim government, build up the Iraqi military and help Iraqis regain control over their own country.

Yet Mr. Rumsfeld is a target for those who either oppose American military involvement in Iraq or lack the ability to understand or communicate the difficulty and importance of defeating the insurgency and creating a stable elected government.

Mr. Rumsfeld, standing on his remarkable record of achievement, is far too effective a defense secretary for any serious student of recent American history to think that he should be replaced. With Mr. Rumsfeld at the helm, the U.S. military has defeated two terrorist regimes, freeing more than 50 million people a chance at freedom. ...

[T]he most compelling reason to keep Mr. Rumsfeld as secretary of defense may simply be that there has not been another attack on our homeland since Sept. 11.

Mr. Rumsfeld's critics are off the mark. The military, under Mr. Rumsfeld's leadership, is our finest example of what works.

Newt Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, was speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999. This column first appeared in The (Baltimore) Sun.

Gingrich

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



The Democrats:
"I RESOLVE
TO GET TO KNOW
FOLKS IN THAT
'HEARTLAND' PLACE...
THAT'S ALL I
NEED TO DO,
AND I'LL GO FAR..."

I'LL GET DOWN
ON THEIR LEVEL,
AND TALK TO 'EM
FACE-TO-FACE...
...OVER
DOUBLE LATTES,
AT A
SUSHI BAR..."

Illustration by Bruce Tinsley. © 2004 by Bruce Tinsley. All rights reserved.

Don't mess with Texas' filmmaking industry

Officials react as nearby states seek to siphon off some of the business

BY KELLEY SHANNON
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Cameras keep rolling on Texas movie sets, but nearby states are grabbing a piece of the action.

Directors Robert Rodriguez and Richard Linklater made films here in the past year. And Burnt Orange Productions, an upstart Austin for-profit venture that works with University of Texas film students, shot its first picture and plans many more.

Film industry insiders, though, warn that the state must work to retain the film business that blossomed over the last decade or risk losing it to nearby states where financial incentives are attracting producers.

"Filmmakers tend to follow filmmakers. If there's a hot spot, they're going. New Orleans is a hot spot right now," said Tom Copeland, director of the Texas Film Commission.

The commission is looking at new ways to promote the Texas movie-making infrastructure. Specific proposals are expected in the 2005 state legislative session.

Austin city officials are working on similar strategies. A city spokeswoman in August predicted the economic impact of film and visual media on the city at \$360 million annually. MovieMaker magazine just named Austin the top location in the nation to live

Filmed in Texas

The movie industry in Texas took hold in the 1990s. Here are some of the movies filmed in the state over that time period:

- "The Alamo," 2003
- "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius," 2001
- "The Life of David Gale," 2001
- "Traffic," 2000
- "Miss Congeniality," 2000
- "Spy Kids," 2000
- "All the Pretty Horses," 1999
- "The Faculty," 1998
- "Selenia," 1996
- "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls," 1995
- "Dazed and Confused," 1992
- "JFK," 1991
- "Slacker," 1990

Source: Texas Film Commission

and make movies. Houston was No. 10.

Filmmakers often praise the diversity of locations near Austin, and the fact that crews, equipment and studios are already in the city.

Texas gives moviemakers some sales tax exemptions, but other states are "literally throwing money at people to get them to come here," Copeland said.

In Louisiana — where, unlike



Carolyn Pfeiffer, at Burnt Orange Productions' studios Dec. 13 in Austin, Texas, is president and CEO of the upstart for-profit venture that works with University of Texas film students. Texas officials also are looking at ways to strengthen the state's flourishing film industry.

Texas, there is a state income tax moviemakers can get investment tax credits and payroll credits. New Mexico also provides tax incentives and recently announced funding to train film technicians.

Texas film industry experts

worry about losing the state's all-important crew base — the behind-the-scenes people who tend to sets, operate cameras and work in production.

"Our crews are leaving and going to work on films in Louisiana and New Mexico. I hear it almost every single day," said Carolyn Pfeiffer, president and chief executive of Burnt Orange Productions.

Producer Elizabeth Avellan, who makes movies in Austin with her husband, Rodriguez, said professional, hard-working crew members in Texas are a big attraction. Rarely, she said, do they encounter "whining" or "drama" on crews.

"Drama takes a lot of time, and time is money in the movie business," Avellan said. "When you have crews that are professional and know what they're doing, you get it done faster."

The couple's Texas-made films include the "SpyKids" movies.

Rodriguez and Avellan live in

"Filmmakers tend to follow filmmakers. If there's a hot spot, they're going."

Tom Copeland
director of
Texas Film Commission

Austin, where they operate their Troublemaker Studios, and shoot 80 percent or more of their movies in Texas. They don't intend to be lured to neighboring states, Avellan said.

But Texas should try to persuade filmmakers not to flee, she said, praising the bipartisan movie industry support shown by Texas leaders.

A total of \$304.7 million from 51 projects flowed into film production in Texas this year by early December, Copeland said.

State and local officials are well aware of that economic impact.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry joined governors from the three other most populous states this year to urge Congress to stop filmmakers from making movies in other countries because it is so much cheaper. The governors asked Congress to allow immediate expensing of production costs for some U.S.-made films.

Every production dollar generates from \$2 to \$5 in revenues in a local economy, the governors said.

In the Austin area, Burnt Orange Productions has plans to become a larger part of the economy.

Burnt Orange, working with the University of Texas Film Institute, wants to produce eight to 10 commercially viable, feature-length films in its first three years, in the budget range of \$500,000 to \$3 million per picture.

Almost all the movies will be filmed in central Texas.

About 30 students come paid, but most earning internship credit — worked on the recently filmed Burnt Orange movie "Dot," a dark comedy thriller set in Connecticut but made in Austin.

"Our goal is that eventually students will be taking on roles of greater and greater importance," Pfeiffer said.

Singer John Mayer gets cold shoulder at school ceremony honoring him

The Associated Press

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Grammy Award-winner John Mayer received a cold shoulder at a ceremony inducted into its Hall of Fame — and wound up in the headmaster's office.

The 27-year-old guitarist and singer, a 1995 graduate of Fairfield Wendell High School, decided to attend the

induction ceremony but was barred because of what school officials said were security concerns. They said they had not expected the pop star to attend.

"We were not ready for John Mayer," said Jim Conley, chairman of the school's Hall of Fame committee.

Mayer said he was taken to the headmaster's office, where officials stalled him until the ceremony was under way and then

walked him to his car.

"It was hurtful," he said Thursday.

Headmaster James Coyne said he explained to Mayer that he was concerned for his welfare and for the welfare of the students.

Coyne said the star wasn't escorted from the premises. "We accompanied him to his car."

Mayer said he initially was not able to attend the ceremony, but changed his mind. He said he intended to donate a guitar he used on tour.

As he approached James Blake, a professional tennis player who also was inducted with golfer J.J. Henry, a former teacher took Mayer by the arm and led him into Coyne's office, Mayer said.

"So there I was," Mayer said, "I could see James out there with his mom and the whole thing's going on and I'm in the office."

Mayer won a best male pop performance Grammy for the 2001 single "Your Body Is a Wonderland." This year, he's nominated in the same category and for song of the year for "Daughters," off his new album, "Heavier Things."



Mayer

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 27)	\$0.7824
Pound buys (Dec. 27)	\$1.3812
British pound (Dec. 27)	\$1.3917
Japanese yen (Dec. 27)	\$0.0074
South Korean won (Dec. 27)	\$0.0010
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1.3144
British pound	\$1.3917
Canada (dollar)	\$0.7224
Denmark (crown)	\$5.6566
Egypt (pound)	\$1.3812
Hong Kong (dollar)	\$0.7824
Hungary (Forint)	\$18.25
Iceland (Krona)	\$61.925
Israel (Sheqel)	\$3.956
Japan (Yen)	\$0.0074
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$0.2946
Norway (Krone)	\$6.9194
Philippines (Peso)	\$0.0246
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$3.75
Switzerland (Franc)	\$0.7536
South Korea (Won)	\$0.0010
Switzerland (Franc)	\$0.7536
Thailand (Baht)	\$0.0303
Turkey (Lira)	\$1.385,889.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. U.S. purchasing currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany) track with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$442.20
Silver	\$16.48

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.25
Federal funds market rate	1.00
3-month bill	2.20
30-year bond	5.00

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Military info online

BY NANCY DUNNAN

Whether you're active, retired or a prospective member of the Armed Forces, you'll find something of interest at www.FirstGov.gov.

The military section of this government Web site covers a wide variety of topics, including current military news, info

on ROTC and everything you need to know about benefits and retirement, family support, training and education, special home loans and life insurance.

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Invest \$500 to \$50,000 in 2005" and a weekly column for theonlineinvestor.com.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy becoming cloudy with rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid to upper 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms throughout the day, and areas of fog over night. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy, with isolated rain showers in the south. Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain showers in the east in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with areas of rain and snow in the morning. Highs in the mid 30s.

Hungary: Cloudy with areas of rain. Highs in the mid 40s.

Northern Italy: Cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 40s.

Southern Italy: Cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 50s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 50s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 20s to mid 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms along the southern coast. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <http://www.ows.smbach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:05AM	6:56AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:24AM	8:24AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:30PM	5:04PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:30PM	4:31PM

	Last up 3 Jan 05	New moon 10 Jan 05	First up 17 Jan 05	Full moon 25 Jan 05
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AFRICA

Cape Town	80/66	Mogadishu	89/76
Dakar	79/68	Nairobi	82/60
Freetown	87/75	Rabat	59/43
Kindness	87/72	Tripoli	60/47

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	41/34	Manila	88/77
Bahran	65/52	Mexico City	69/38
Beijing	23/18	Monterrey	51/28
Bombay	87/66	Riyadh	61/44
Buenos Aires	74/68	Rio de Janeiro	84/74
Calcutta	88/72	Sofia	36/16
Helsinki	30/28	Sydney	84/63
Hong Kong	73/59	Sydney	84/63
London	55/38	Tokyo	52/42

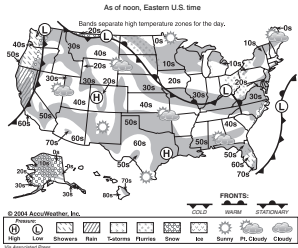
TODAY'S STATE-SIDE OUTLOOK

Alabama	HI	LO	Obs.	Colorado	HI	LO	PC
Alaska	62	43	PC	Idaho	25	18	PC
Arizona	57	30	PC	Illinois	50	35	PC
Arkansas	55	30	PC	Indiana	50	35	PC
California	55	30	PC	Iowa	50	35	PC
Connecticut	55	30	PC	Kansas	50	35	PC
Delaware	55	30	PC	Kentucky	50	35	PC
District of Columbia	55	30	PC	Louisiana	50	35	PC
Florida	55	30	PC	Maine	50	35	PC
Georgia	55	30	PC	Massachusetts	50	35	PC
Hawaii	55	30	PC	Michigan	50	35	PC
Idaho	25	18	PC	Minnesota	50	35	PC
Illinois	50	35	PC	Mississippi	50	35	PC
Indiana	50	35	PC	Montana	50	35	PC
Iowa	50	35	PC	Nebraska	50	35	PC
Kansas	50	35	PC	Nevada	50	35	PC
Kentucky	50	35	PC	New Hampshire	50	35	PC
Louisiana	50	35	PC	New Jersey	50	35	PC
Maine	50	35	PC	New Mexico	50	35	PC
Massachusetts	50	35	PC	New York	50	35	PC
Michigan	50	35	PC	North Carolina	50	35	PC
Minnesota	50	35	PC	North Dakota	50	35	PC
Mississippi	50	35	PC	Ohio	50	35	PC
Montana	50	35	PC	Oklahoma	50	35	PC
Nebraska	50	35	PC	Oregon	50	35	PC
Nevada	50	35	PC	Pennsylvania	50	35	PC
New Hampshire	50	35	PC	Rhode Island	50	35	PC
New Jersey	50	35	PC	South Carolina	50	35	PC
New Mexico	50	35	PC	South Dakota	50	35	PC
New York	50	35	PC	Tennessee	50	35	PC
North Carolina	50	35	PC	Texas	50	35	PC
North Dakota	50	35	PC	Utah	50	35	PC
Ohio	50	35	PC	Vermont	50	35	PC
Oklahoma	50	35	PC	Virginia	50	35	PC
Oregon	50	35	PC	Washington	50	35	PC
Pennsylvania	50	35	PC	West Virginia	50	35	PC
Rhode Island	50	35	PC	Wisconsin	50	35	PC
South Carolina	50	35	PC	Wyoming	50	35	PC
South Dakota	50	35	PC				
Tennessee	50	35	PC				
Texas	50	35	PC				
Utah	50	35	PC				
Vermont	50	35	PC				
Virginia	50	35	PC				
Washington	50	35	PC				
West Virginia	50	35	PC				
Wisconsin	50	35	PC				
Wyoming	50	35	PC				

MIDEAST

Baghdad	60/46	Tehran	41/32
Beirut	67/47	Tripoli	60/47
Cairo	71/49	Doha	70/60
Damascus	60/46	Dubai	69/59
Haifa	60/46	Jeddah	54/36
Jerusalem	60/46	Karachi	82/60
Manama	60/46	Moscow	35/32
Nairobi	82/60	Prague	36/28
Rabat	59/43	Rome	53/43
Riyadh	61/44	Sofia	36/16
Sydney	84/63	Sydney	84/63
Tokyo	52/42	Tokyo	52/42

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Outlook every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station. STARS AND STRIPES Your Homework Newspaper

Flu shots available

MA BOSTON — State health officials are making flu vaccine shots available to people 50 and older. The state imposed restrictions in October after British regulators unexpectedly shut down a major U.S. vaccine supplier over concerns about bacterial contamination. In early December, with supplies increasing, the Department of Public Health lowered the minimum age to 65 and eased some other restrictions.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Dude, we want Dell Inc.

NC WINSTON-SALEM — The city and surrounding Forsyth County proposed giving a combined \$37.2 million to Dell Inc. if it builds a computer plant there. Dell could hire more than 2,000 workers for its new Triad plant. Guilford and Davidson counties have offered lower incentive deals. Dell announced last month it would move to the region after the Legislature agreed to incentives totaling \$242.5 million.

Hazards of watching TV

TX HOUSTON — A car plowed into an apartment and ran over a man who was lying in bed watching television, but the man suffered only minor injuries.

Wilmon Guillory, 56, was trapped under the car for 40 minutes. He was treated and released from Memorial Hermann Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Firefighters said three young people were in the car that plunged through a brick wall of Guillory's apartment and into his bedroom. All three fled.

Home's nurse attacked

CA PERRIS — An 87-year-old man visiting a family member at a convalescent home allegedly shot a nurse in the face after he became angry about the care the relative was receiving, authorities said.

The nurse was listed in critical condition at a nearby hospital, Riverside County sheriff's spokesman Dennis Gutierrez said.

Minutes after the afternoon shooting at the Ember Care Health Center in Perris, authorities arrested Norman Larson of Sun City for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, Gutierrez said.

Center employees had detained Larson by the time deputies arrived.

Baby suit thrown out

SC COLUMBIA — The state Supreme Court threw out a "wrongful life" lawsuit claiming a doctor failed to tell a pregnant woman about her son's severe birth defect.

Jennie Willis contended she would have legally aborted had she known when she was pregnant that most of her son's brain was missing, according to her lawyer, O. Fayrell Furr Jr. The lawsuit was filed by Willis on behalf of her now 8-year-old son, Thomas.

In a unanimous ruling, South Carolina's high court said it recognizes the severe nature of the boy's

condition, but it could not accept the wrongful birth claim.

South Carolina joins 27 other states that either reject or limit the "wrongful life" claim, the court said. California, Washington and New Jersey are the only other states that allow such claims.

YMCA rentals banned

IL CHICAGO — A YMCA director has been fired and overnight facility rentals banned after the parents of young children arriving for a morning swim meet clashed with participants in an overnight transgender fashion show and ball.

Greg Weider, who had been acting director of the New City YMCA for two years, was fired. Programming manager Michael Horton, who oversaw scheduling at the center, resigned two days earlier.

Police and private security guards were called after some parents used sexual slurs, and scuffling broke out, authorities said. No arrests were made.

Cyclists defend rights

NY NEW YORK — The city's bid to force cyclists to obtain permits before their monthly bicycle rally through Manhattan was dismissed by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge William H. Pauley III said the issue should be

resolved in state court.

Cyclists had argued that since no one claims to organize the Critical Mass rallies, issuing permits would have been difficult.

City lawyer Sheryl Neufeld said the city was considering an appeal.

The bike rides, which started in San Francisco in 1992 to make a statement about cyclists' rights, have become large enough in New York that police tightened the rules, leading to the arrest of hundreds of cyclists days before the Republican National Convention.

Pauley noted that police had not required permits for nearly a decade and had even aided the rallies by blocking cross-town intersections and letting cyclists run red lights.

Attorney Norman Seagal, who represented five cyclists who had their bikes seized, said he hoped the judge's argument "will deter the city from seeking to appeal."

Saving trees

NE HASTINGS — When Earl Marian sends birthday wishes to his brother, he can count on getting the same early birthday wishes from Floyd Marian the next month.

It's a card-swapping tradition that started in 1975, when Floyd first received the birthday card from his brother.

In it, Linus of the Peanuts comic strip tells the reader, "This is the age of ecology! Don't throw this card away. Recycle it to a friend! Floyd took the advice and sent it back to Earl. Earl followed suit the following year. And so on and so on.

For 29 years the brothers have kept their same-card exchange going, freshening the card up with one-line messages that now have taken up most of the card's open space.

Floyd, 80, receives the card each year around his Dec. 10 birthday, then kicks it back to Earl, 73, in time to acknowledge his birthday on Jan. 31.

"It's getting worn out a little bit," Floyd said.

Drivers' licenses revoked

VA RICHMOND — A total of 237 drivers are losing their Virginia licenses because of suspected fraud by a former Department of Motor Vehicles worker who allegedly sold driver's licenses for up to \$2,500 each.

The department will be mailing letters containing the cancellation orders to the drivers this week, with the revocations effective immediately.

All the drivers received licenses over the last 1½ years from a former DMV employee at the agency's office in north Henrico County who has been charged with illegally selling documents.

Two weeks ago, the agency sent letters to 250 drivers telling them to turn in their licenses and reapply for them.

An unknown number of the 250 affected drivers turned in their licenses, she said, but could not meet the state's licensing requirements and walked away without a new driver's license.



On a mission

Salva Dut shows a water pump he uses for demonstrations of his mission to bring clean water to villages in Sudan, at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church where he works as a clerk in Rochester, N.Y. Dut is one of the thousands of "Lost Boys of Sudan" who spent over a decade fleeing war and famine before landing in America.



Soup's on

Glenn Harris, left, gets chicken soup from Kim Snyder, second right, and sandwiches from Patricia Bates, right, as members of God's Filling Station Full Gospel Church serve meals to the needy in front of the Department of Social Services building in Asheville, N.C.



Protesters on the prowl

Lisa Franzetta, campaign coordinator with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, left, and Melissa Garcia, a volunteer with PETA, protest as they skate around wearing painted-on leopard spots Pershing Square's downtown ice rink in Los Angeles.



Snack time

Pike, a 22-year-old polar bear, digs into a Christmas present at the San Francisco Zoo in San Francisco on Christmas Eve.



3 lucky pigs Three hogs walk in the snow after getting out of a barn that caught fire near Stockwell, Ind. More than 500 head of hogs were in the barn. Some of the hogs were able to be saved. Fire officials would not say what the cause of the blaze was.



Back on track A car of the newly reopened Las Vegas Monorail pulls into the station at the MGM Grand. The brand-new system, built by Canada's Bombardier Corp., had been closed since mid-September due to safety concerns.



Winter-sun run Octavio Pescador runs along the beach in Santa Monica, Calif., on Christmas Eve, with temperatures near 70 degrees.



Night lights Shining through the pitch-black darkness of an early winter morning, Christmas lights cover this home in Shawnee, Okla.

New low on welfare

MD ANNAPOLIS — Figures from the Maryland Department of Human Resources show the number of people in Maryland receiving welfare benefits last month was 66,725. That's the lowest number since December 1963. Officials say the numbers have fallen steadily since a 1996 federal law limited the duration of benefits.

Road projects delayed

AL MONTGOMERY — Newspaper mistakes in advertising state highway construction projects have delayed road projects five times since late 2003 and cost the state \$202,354, state transportation officials said. State law requires the projects to be advertised once a week for three weeks before bids are opened. If not, the bid process must start over.

\$5M in child support

MI LANSING — Attorney General Mike Cox said his office has collected \$5 million in back child support collections. The office collected \$5 million between July and December, the same amount it collected between April 2003 and this July, a Cox spokesman said. The number of workers dedicated to collecting back child support has been increased from 10 to 33.

No more discount

NJ TRENTON — Motorists who use E-ZPass on the New Jersey Turnpike will lose their 15 percent discount for rush hour and weekend tolls beginning Jan. 1, 2006. The move is expected to generate as much as \$17 million and will allow officials to borrow more money for highway improvements without paying higher interest rates. Toll discounts during off-peak hours will remain in effect.

Vandals taint landmark

WV HARPERS FERRY — Vandals marked a popular landmark that Thomas Jefferson called one of nature's "most stupendous scenes," defacing with paint a famous rock of shale known as Jefferson Rock.

The rock, offering a sweeping view of where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, was damaged in the evening or early morning. "It looks like the entire rock was dipped into paint," park Superintendent Donald W. Campbell said Thursday. No arrests had been made.

Jefferson hiked to the spot in 1783 and described it as "perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature" in his book "Notes on the State of Virginia," telling readers its scenic vista was "worth a voyage across the Atlantic."

Park officials have begun to remove the oil-based paint from the well-grooved slab with chemicals.

3 arrests in bird caper

IL DECATUR — Authorities charged three men in connection with the decapitation of birds at Decatur's Scovill Zoo, saying they urged a 15-year-old to break into the zoo on Halloween

and helped cover up the crime. Police released documents that described it as a theft attempt gone awry. They said the teenager, arrested last month, had been urged by the three to steal chickens from the zoo on Oct. 31.

The following day, zoo workers found two Chilean flamingoes and a white pelican mangled in their cages.

Chief Park Ranger Ward Davis said authorities believe the teen went after the birds after being unable to find any chickens. In court documents, authorities said the 15-year-old strangled and decapitated the flamingoes and stomped on the pelican before decapitating it. The case against the teen is pending.

Sean M. Riley, 26, Lloyd G. Pringle, 19, and Brandon Gossard, 19, were arrested in connection with the bird deaths. Park officials say the community has raised more than \$14,000 to replace the birds.

Pink slips at meatpacker

KS WICHITA — A Kansas meatpacker, hit by the loss of lucrative export markets because of fears of mad cow disease in American beef, is cutting 150 jobs and reducing production at its slaughterhouse.

Creekestone Farms Premium Beef blamed its inability to do the kind of testing for mad cow, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), that would appease overseas customers.

"What we predicted has happened — that is, we are not able to ship because we are not testing. We are not doing what the customer wants. We continue to think that is wrong," said Bill Fielding, Creekestone's chief operating officer.

One year ago, the nation's first case of mad cow was discovered in a single animal in Washington state. Many nations, including Japan — with sales exceeding \$1 billion in 2003 — then closed their borders to U.S. beef imports.

Creekestone Farms wanted to test all the cattle it slaughters for the disease. The Department of Agriculture has refused to allow such comprehensive testing.

Traffic dispute escalates

RI LINCOLN — A Woonsocket man was restrained at gunpoint by a state Department of Environmental Management officer after a traffic dispute.

Stephen Chauvin, 24, was charged with felony assault with a dangerous weapon. The DEM officer spotted him walking from his parked car toward another motorist with a 2-foot-long retractable baton on Route 116 shortly after 9 a.m.

Chauvin and the other driver had both pulled over to the side of the road.

The DEM officer witnessed the confrontation and ordered Chauvin to put the baton down. When he failed to comply, the officer drew his weapon.

Chauvin then stopped and was later charged by police.

Police said Chauvin was carrying the baton because he uses it in his job as an armored-car driver, The Providence Journal reported in Thursday's editions.

Chauvin appeared in District Court and was released on personal recognizance.

His next court date is Jan. 4.

Stories and photos from news wires

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page of the sports section or AFRTS Web site at <http://myafrii.dodmedia.osd.mil>

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2004

(AFR-FAMILY)	(AFR-MOVIE)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-NEWS)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-SPORTS)
9:00 The Wild Thornberrys Hyena	Movie 11 ("The Best Interest of the Children") (1992, Drama) Sarah Jessica Parker, Sarah Shulhess, Elizabeth Ashley.	Dr. Phil	Jagorip/Headline News	The Battered Boys	SportsCenter	30-Minute Movie
9:30 The Wild Thornberrys			Headline News	For News Watch	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Headline News
10:00 ChalkZone			Headline News	Bulls and Bears		Designers' Challenge
10:30 ChalkZone (E)			Headline News	Carvato on Business		Fashion Emergency
11:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10:48) Movie "Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol" (1987) Steve Guttenberg.	(17) General Hospital	Headline News	Dateline NBC		The Soup
11:30 Kim Possible			Headline News			The King of Queens
12:00 Kim Possible "Rural Pain"			Headline News			Without a Trace "Sons and Daughters"
13:00 Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie "Huge Floats" (1999) Sandra Bullock. A woman forced single mother finds love in her hometown.	Today	24 Day 3: 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Fox and Friends	NBA Fastbreak	Charmel Demos attempt to lose 100 lbs. (Live)
13:30 Movie "Anastasia" (1997, Adventure) Voices of Meg Ryan, John Cusack.					College Basketball Slam Dunk and 3-Point Contest. From San Antonio. (Taped)	Any Day Now "Too Deep"
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	(10:48) Movie "About Last Night..." (1998) Rob Lowe. A couple tries to build upon an initial one-night stand.	Aladdin "Garden of Evil"	ChalkZone (E)	Late Show		
15:30 Full House (Part 2 of 2)						
16:00 Pokemon						
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh!						
17:00 Aah! Real Monsters	Access Hollywood	Jagorip/Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Primetime	Everybody Loves Raymond
17:30 Rocket Power			Headline News	FOX News	College Gmday	Countdown With Keith Olsen
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	The Late Late Show	FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Law & Order: A vigilante priest
18:30 Rugrats (E)				FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	American Hot Rod "Alumbat 4"
19:00 Lizzie McGuire	Movie 11 ("Serendipity") (2001, Romance) John Cusack, Kate Beckinsale.	Headline News		FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Friends
19:30 Taina "Tie Friends"				FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Sentinel "The Final"
20:00 Smallville "Dune"				FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Blind Date
20:30 Boy Meets World	(45) Movie 11 ("Little Women") (1994, Drama) Winona Ryder, Gabriel Byrne. Four New England sisters embrace life during the Civil War.	Headline News		FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Friends
21:30 Boy Meets World				FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Sentinel "The Final"
22:00 The Cosby Show				FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Blind Date
22:30 Home Improvement				FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Blind Date
23:00 Touched by an Angel "God and Country"				FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Blind Date
23:30				FOX News	College Football MFC: Conners Bowl - Fresno State vs. Virginia. From Boise, Idaho. (Live)	Blind Date

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2004

(AFR-FAMILY)	(AFR-MOVIE)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-NEWS)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-SPORTS)	(AFR-SPORTS)
00:00 Aah! Real Monsters	(11:00) ("The Specialist")	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	(11:30) College Football Motor City Bowl - Connecticut vs. Toledo. From Detroit. (Live)	Late Night With Conan O'Brien
00:30 Rocket Power	(11:45) Movie "Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment" (1985, Comedy) Steve Guttenberg, Bubba Smith.	Access Hollywood	Beer in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		Comic Greg Kinnear, MTV personality and ONC talk-show host David Fierstein.
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants				CBS Evening News		Wheel of Fortune
1:30 Lizzie McGuire						Law & Order: A vigilante priest lists a drug dealer.
2:00 Lizzie McGuire						American Hot Rod "Alumbat 4"
2:30 Taina "Tie Friends"						Oprah Winfrey
3:00 Smallville "Dune"						NBC Nightly News
3:30 Boy Meets World	(45) Movie 11 ("Little Women") (1994, Drama) Winona Ryder, Gabriel Byrne. Four New England sisters embrace life during the Civil War.	NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at St. Louis Rams. From the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.	Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Figure Skating Grand Prix: Russia. (Taped)	Friends
4:00 Boy Meets World						Selfish (Part 1 of 2)
4:30 Sesame Street (E)						Breathingspace Yoga
5:00 Sesame Street (E)						Corbreen Workout
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)						(23) Guiding Light
6:00 Blue's Clues						Body Shopping
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)						TIPICAL Mary Ellen
7:30 Bob the Builder						The View
8:00 The Veggie "Your Body"						Animanics
8:30 Dora the Explorer						All Grown Up
9:00 The Wild Thornberrys	Movie "Decal" (2004) Mario Thomas, Brett Culen. A woman makes alarming discoveries about her missing spouse.	NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at St. Louis Rams. From the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.	Dr. Phil	Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Teen Kids News (E)
9:30 The Wild Thornberrys						Jagorip/Headline News
10:00 ChalkZone (E)						Headline News
10:30 ChalkZone (E)						Headline News
11:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10:48) Movie "Leslie Nielsen" (1997) Leslie Nielsen. A man's best friend and confidante is an invisible robot.	(17) General Hospital	Headline News	Headline News	NBA Fastbreak	The King of Queens
11:30 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius						SportsCenter
12:00 Kim Possible						That "7th Show" (Part 1 of 2)
12:30 Kim Possible						Griffins "Liggy McEg"
13:00 Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie 11 ("Rear Window") (1998, Drama) Christopher Reeve, Daryl Hannah.	Today	24 Day 3: 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Fox and Friends	NBA Fastbreak	Charmel Demos attempt to lose 100 lbs. with a leprechaun.
13:30 The Wild Thornberrys Movie: The Origin of Donnie						Aly McBeal "Falling Up"
14:00 Donnie						ESPNNews
14:30 Funniest Home Videos	(14:40) Movie 11 ("Tomorrow Never Dies") (1997) Pierce Brosnan, Jonathan Pryce. James Bond tries to thwart a communications tycoon.	Spy	Animanics	Headline News	American Morning	Any Day Now "Call Him John"
15:00 Full House						ER "The Advocate"
16:00 Pokemon "Sharpedo Attack"						Law & Order "Disciple"
17:00 Aah! Real Monsters						The Simpsons
17:30 Rocket Power						Everybody Loves Raymond
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants						Dennis Miller
18:30 Rugrats						Countdown With Keith Olsen
19:00 The Family	Movie "Scary Movie 3" (2003, Comedy) Anna Faria, Anthony Anderson.	Movie 11 ("The Notebook") (2004, Romance) Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams. A man tells a story to a woman about two loves.	Headline News	Headline News	NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at St. Louis Rams. From the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.	Comic Scene Investigation "Crash and Burn"
19:30 The Amanda Show						Entertainment Studios.com
20:00 Everwood The doctors investigate a 30-year-old murder.						The Hot List
20:30 Sister, Sister "The Breakup"						Headline News
21:00 Sister, Sister "The Trouble"						Good Morning America
22:00 The Cosby Show						Headline News
22:30 Home Improvement						Headline News
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Fights of Angels"						Headline News
23:30						Headline News

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FACES

SCARY Carrey

In his new magical movie, actor has fun putting fear into children of all ages

BY MIKE SZYMANSKI

Zap2it.com

LOS ANGELES — Jim Carrey loves scaring kids. He's played the Grinch in "Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas," the Riddler in "Batman Forever," the maniacal superhero in "The Mask" — and now he's the sinister Count Olaf in "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events."

"I remember when I was a kid just loving creepy movies that scared me and at the same time were funny," says Carrey. "I remember 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' with that ... Children Catcher, who was trying to entice kids out with candy and kidnap them. There were crazy characters that were really scary. Bill Sykes in 'Oliver!' — that's not a funny movie, but I love those characters."

Now he's recreating the nemesis of three orphaned children from a series of books that rivals "Harry Potter" in popularity. In the "Lemony Snicket" series, Olaf takes custody of the children and then tries to kill them in order to inherit their parents' fortune.

Carrey says in a press conference that he modeled the character after a little bit of Orson Welles, a bit of the cartoon cereal box character Count Chocula, and bit like a bird of prey. Physically, however, he turned out to be more familiar.

"I turned out looking like my dad, actually, which is really freaky," he says, pointing out that his family also noticed the resemblance of the older bald sharp-nosed Olaf.

"He's kind of like the funny uncle who gets a little drunk at Christmastime and then turns to be real."

For Carrey, playing dress-up is like Christmas every day. "I love transforming — it's like Christmas morning to me," he says, wearing an uncharacteristic black suit with a blue striped shirt. (He says he's going somewhere important

after the interview.) "You get into the make-up trailer and you start playing around with things and throwing pieces together. At one point, we had a Don King wig on backwards strapped to the back of my head and I look like a ... hood ornament from a Chevy, it was weird. But we experimented, we came up with 30 different characters that didn't get into the movie. The whole process is exciting. It's such a fun thing to masquerade, period."

"I remember when I was a kid just loving creepy movies that scared me and at the same time were funny."

Jim Carrey

Joining his masquerade in the film are Jude Law, Meryl Streep, Timothy Spall, Jennifer Coolidge, Cedric the Entertainer and British comedian Billy Connolly, who plays another distant relative who's a snake expert and always has a big huge python around his neck.

"Jim would always try to improvise something," Connolly recalls, remembering how in one scene Carrey picked up a snake-wrangling stick and putted around a piece of paper using live turtles as obstacles, as if on a miniature golf course. "It was just lovely to see his mind work that way and we all would collapse into laughter."

The children were played by "Road to Perdition's" Liam Aiken, Emily Browning from "Red Kelly" and 2-year-old twins Kara and Shelby Hoffman, who alternated as the youngest child, Sunny. Browning says Carrey ate sardines and made his breath disgusting on purpose before shooting scenes with them.

"He always tried to crack us up, and scare us, too," Browning says. "Gosh, if they put all the outtakes together on the DVD, there'd be seven more hours of the movie."

Coming up, he's signed to do a big-screen version of "The Six Million Dollar Man," a remake of "Fun With Dick and Jane" and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." His wide variety of character ranges represent two sides of himself.

"I think the two me's are definitely meeting in the middle in some respects. I seem to have tripped into a time in my career where I have such a diversity of roles, so I feel incredibly lucky."



Actor Jim Carrey hams it up at the premiere of "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" in Hollywood on Dec. 12. Carrey plays creepy Count Olaf.

Powell takes coveted New Year position

Secretary of State Colin Powell will celebrate New Year's Eve in Times Square as the guest of honor at the 100th anniversary of the world-famous festivities.

Powell, a native New Yorker, will push the button to begin the New Year's Eve ball's descent as an expected 750,000 people swarm Times Square and more than a billion people worldwide watch on television.

"I could not imagine a better way to ring in the new year than surrounded by the energy and enthusiasm of the American people and those watching on television together in the hopes of a brighter tomorrow," Powell said in a statement.

Powell announced plans last month to resign from the Bush administration and plans to leave early next year.

"Colin Powell is as New York as you could possibly be," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who made the announcement Tuesday.

Royal wedding tapes profitable for charity

Proceeds from DVD sales of Prince Felipe's wedding have been donated to the families and victims of the Madrid train bombings.

A palace spokesman said Friday that \$230,375 had been sent to the Foundation for the Victims of Terrorism to be given to the victims of the March 11 attacks. Bombs tore through four early morning commuter trains in Madrid, killing 191 people and injuring some 1,800.

Prince Felipe and former TV anchorwoman Letizia Ortiz were married May 22. The wedding was filmed by Spanish Television with an agreement that proceeds from video sales be given to victims of the attack.

The foundation also represents victims of attacks by the armed Basque separatist group ETA, which has killed more than 800 people since 1968.

Actress breathes life back into Hepburn

Cate Blanchett comes on strong when she first appears as Katharine Hepburn in Martin Scorsese's new Howard Hughes biopic, "The Aviator." She's talking a mile-a-minute in that Hepburn accent.

Blanchett says Scorsese wanted it that way.

"He wanted Hepburn to come into the film with a bang. And so the scene is constructed with her talking her head off," she told AP Radio in an interview. "It's quite an assault on the senses."

Blanchett says Scorsese wanted the audience to ask themselves: "Oh, my God. Is that her? Is that Katharine Hepburn?"

"The Aviator" has received six Golden Globe nominations, including best supporting actress for Blanchett.

Smoking may hurt health but helps career

Smoking is bad for your health, but it was good for Hong Kong martial arts queen Yuen Qiu's acting career.

Yuen, who appeared in the 1974 James Bond film, "The Man With the Golden Gun," landed a role in "Kung Fu Hustle," which opened in Hong Kong on Thursday, because the director liked the way she smoked, the South China Morning Post reported.

Yuen, a popular stuntwoman and kung-fu actress in the '70s, said she was accompanying a friend to an audition when director Stephen Chow saw her smoking. He was looking for someone who smoked the way she did and urged her to join the cast, she told the newspaper.

Chow, who directed and starred in 2001's "Shaolin Soccer," asked her to play a landlady in his new comedy about gangsters who try to take over a neighborhood full of kung fu masters disguised as ordinary residents.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Powell



Ortiz and Prince Felipe

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



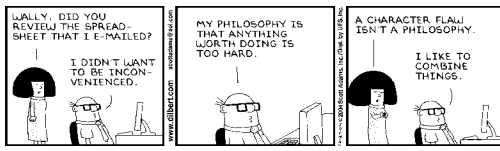
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



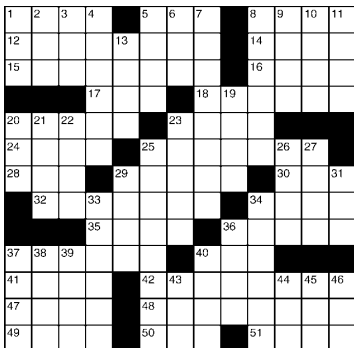
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Count counterpart
- 5 Rather's home
- 8 "Friends" role
- 12 Price-list periodical
- 14 Large show
- 15 Adam Sandler movie
- 16 Incubator noise
- 17 "Today" rival, for short
- 18 Begin
- 20 Actor Milo
- 23 A couple of cups
- 24 Slaughter of baseball
- 25 "So what?"
- 28 Scoot
- 29 Mehitabel's pal
- 30 Trot
- 32 Sasquatch
- 34 Surfboard support
- 35 Kate Hudson's mom
- 36 Spot on TV?
- 37 Spiritually revived
- 40 DEE rival
- 41 Bird, to Brutus
- 42 Kid's riding toy
- 47 Get it off your chest
- 48 Colorless liquor
- 49 Remnants
- 50 Army rank (Abbrev.)
- 51 Read bar codes

Down

- 1 "Chicago" lyricist
- 2 "The Greatest"
- 3 Bad hairpiece
- 4 Silts
- 5 Last several notes
- 6 Physique
- 7 Ceiling feature
- 8 Character
- 9 The yoke's on them
- 10 Detail, briefly
- 11 Ex-trosh
- 13 Crimston Tide
- 19 Mayberry
- 20 "— the ramparts ..."
- 21 Ignore intentionally
- 22 Hagar the Horrible's daughter
- 23 Actress Molly
- 25 Take lunch to work
- 26 Trojan War hero
- 27 Get a bang out of
- 29 Way off
- 31 Solidify
- 33 Ibsen play
- 34 Desires
- 36 Church array
- 37 Carry on
- 38 Bump-free
- 39 Predicament
- 40 Not "fer"
- 43 Chemical suffix
- 44 The list goes on"
- 45 Greek vowel
- 46 Author Deighton

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-27

CRYPTOQUIP

RH FAQ'EX IXDDRKM
OZERIVNUI VEXXI, FAQ
NRMZV VEF UKB MXV
FAQEXDH UDD IGEQOXB QG.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: I KEEP FAILING TO DIG A GOOD TRENCH, SO I'M PLANNING TO MAKE A LAST-DITCH EFFORT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals L

Best part of rematch is that it is over

By BOB KRAVITZ

The Indianapolis Star

INDIANAPOLIS — Once again, a player went into the stands. Once again, it involved the Detroit Pistons and Indiana Pacers. Can't we all get along? As a matter of fact, we can. His name is Antonio McDyess, the soft-spoken, perpetually easy-going forward for the Detroit Pistons.

Her name is Linda Taylor, a resident of Greenwood, Ind., and on this day, she was sitting in the first row in the southwestern corner of Conseco Fieldhouse.

They met in the second quarter, as McDyess, chasing a loose ball that was heading out of bounds, crashed into Taylor.

Commentary

"A couple of seconds later, we were standing there at the free-throw line, and I saw her leaning over, like she was bleeding from her nose or mouth or something," McDyess said. "I was trying to stop myself from running into her, but I hit her pretty good. I think I got her with my elbow."

Shortly thereafter, a timeout was called, and McDyess went back into the stands.

"You OK?" he asked Taylor as she held a tissue to her face. Her nose was bleeding and there was a cut just above her lip. "I'm really, really sorry."

Taylor, stunned to see McDyess in her face a second time, laughed.

"You owe me," she told him with a smile. "You owe me."

As McDyess returned to the court, the crowd nearby gave him a warm ovation.

It wasn't any grand gesture, nothing that would make the horrific brawl dissipate into the mists of time, but it was honorable and human and decent, and represented everything the vast majority of these guys are all about. On a day when Game 1 was hailed as The Brawl Redux and Game 2 was billed as The Return of Shaq and Kobe, this little moment was the best moment of all, the one that gave us the best and most accurate view of people

we too often see as TV caricatures.

Be honest now: Didn't the Throwdown in Motown feed into all our worst biases about professional basketball players? That they're arrogant and overpaid, spoiled and immature? For many of the players involved in the fracas, that was the worst part of the fallout, far worse than the suspensions or the lost salary; that now, fans would see them as bad actors instead of hard-working professional athletes who are husbands and fathers and contributors to the community.

"A lot of people only know me by what they saw on TV," Jermaine O'Neal said after his first game back from suspension. Public perception is no small issue

for a player like O'Neal. Not because the good-guy persona will help him get more endorsements, but because he wants to be seen for who he is. This, remember, is the person who fulfilled a local high school girl's dreams by escorting her to her senior prom.

What what witnessed Saturday was everything the NBA and these two solid franchises wanted and needed: A tough, well-played game devoid of ugly incidents or misbehavior. It was as if a giant sprig of mistletoe had been hung from the fieldhouse scoreboard.

So this game, finally, is over, accompanied by a giant civic exhalation.

"I just think everybody is happy this game is over now," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. Linda Taylor, included.

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Religious Activities

871

REAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2005
January 20th - 22nd, 2005
 Host: Pastor Phyllis D. Lawson

Pursue, for thou shalt overtake them, and without fail recover all
 (Isaiah 42:22)

BEHIND ENEMY LINES
NO GUTS! NO GLORY!

Hannes Sport Center • St. Leon-Rot, Germany (near Heidelberg)
 Registration Fee € 30 including Lunch

Dear Ladies,

Last year, we broke out of the matrix! We found out that we're the one, and for those that are still caught up in the matrix, we're connecting up at the Real Women's Conference January 20 - 22, 2005 and going "Behind Enemy Lines! No Guts! No Glory!"

In Isaiah 42:22 in the New Century Translation it says: There are a people that have been defeated and robbed. They are trapped in pits or locked up in prison. Like robbers, enemies have taken them away, and there is no one to save them. Enemies carried them off, and no one said, "Bring them back!"

But, the Lord has given me a word out of 1 Samuel 30:8.

Pursue! for thou shalt surely overtake them (the enemy), and without fail recover all. It is so important in these last days for us to be in the offense, the position of attack and not the defense. We are the ones that are pursuing, overtaking, and without fail recovering all.

We have a powerful ministry team that will minister to you in the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that many will be healed spiritually, mentally, and physically and made whole.

So I encourage you to come out and be a part of something

that will impact the lives of women dramatically. We have the "Guts!" and God is going to get the "Glory". I'm believing to see you there.

"GET READY TO CROSS THE LINE!"

Pastor Phyllis D. Lawson
 Founder RWC

Special Guests
Vicki Yule



in Concert
H & H Mine



Ministry
Dinner
Treasure & Show



Cost € 35

For Registration Information: Telephone: 06221-603209
 E-mail: realwomenconference@hotmail.com • website: www.jwoc.de
 For hotel reservations: Holiday Inn • Waldorf • Telephone: 06227-36560

Veterans rise to the top in 2004

Wealth of experience among players chosen for All-Europe volleyball

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

This year's All-Europe high school volleyball team is loaded with veteran players whose experience and talent helped make both their teammates and opponents better.

One of those veterans is Ansbach senior Brittney Britton. Britton, who registered 22 aces, 41 kills and 15 blocks during the season, was a driving force in Division III championship in October.

"She's my girl!" said Kathy Clemmons, coach for Division III rival Hofheims. "I've watched her for three years. She doesn't have any weaknesses. She plays strong defense, hits from all over the court and has amazing anticipation. She knows exactly where the ball is going every time."

Another is middle blocker Ashley Mead, a senior at Aviano. "I'm sad to see Ashley go," Sigonella coach Shawn McCarthy said of Mead, a second-team All-Europe pick as a junior who averaged 3.1 kills per set in the European tournament.

"She cost us the Italy championship, but in the end it's about great volleyball. She helped our team get to a higher level by posing such a challenge to us."

The same could be said of outside hitter Liz Lally, a senior at Sigonella, who transferred to Europe last year. That was enough time for her to impress the opposition.

"We saw her here and in Sigonella," Naples coach Eric Vining said of Lally, who chalked up 30 kills, 10 aces and three blocks in a European semifinal against Ansbach.

"She's a tremendous talent," Mead's teammate at Aviano, senior setter Aubree Mariz, made the first team for the second straight year, one of only three players to repeat. The others were a pair of outside hitters—Frankfurt International School sophomore Lindsay Albert and Heidelberg junior Natasha Holan.

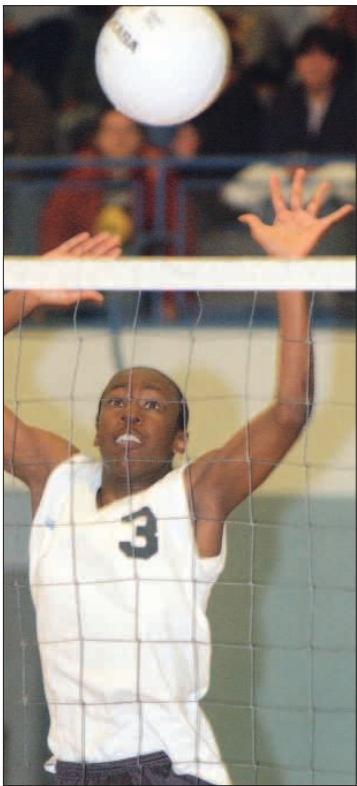
Said Patch coach Todd Taylor of Mariz, who chalked up 70 assists in the Division II tournament, "She's the best setter I've seen. She's a great all-around volleyball player who plays with a lot of intelligence. She made good choices every time she touched the ball."

Of the first-team repeaters, Heidelberg's Rich Bennett was particularly taken with Albert. "She's a really tremendous spiker," Bennett said. "She does everything for her team."

According to FTS coach Tom Callahan, Albert averaged 18 kills per match.

Holan, who averaged 61 kills per game in the tournament for Bennett's Division I champions, drew raves from McCarthy.

"She has amazing form," McCarthy said. "Once the ball gets to



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Ansbach middle blocker Brittney Britton, who registered 22 aces, 41 kills and 15 blocks during the season, led her team to the European Division III championship. Britton is one of nine seniors chosen for the 2004 All-Europe volleyball first team.

the setter, she clears out and gets into position to make the kill. Even though some of her attempts were returned, all of them were in bounds."

In addition to Aviano's Mead, two other 2003 second-teamers, senior middle blockers Caitlin Laingen of Alconbury's Division IV champions and Elvin Hopkins of Patch were promoted to 2004's first team. Three seniors made the all-Europe team for the first time: Lakenheath middle blocker

Ashley Lariviere, Heidelberg setter Jessica Palaschak and Ramstein outside hitter Heather Steele.

Rounding out the selections was Hopkins' teammate Kasy'e Lalau, who made the team for the first time. "I remember her being all over the place," Naples' Vining said of Lalau, a sophomore outside hitter. "She was just as strong in the back as she was in the front."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryanr@mail.stripes.osd.mil

2004 All-Europe volleyball

Player	School	Class	First team statistics
Setters			
Aubree Mariz	Aviano	Sr.	3.9 assists per set in Division II tournament.
Jessica Palaschak	Heidelberg	Sr.	172 assists; 66-for-67 serves in D-1 tournament.
Middle blockers			
Brittney Britton	Ansbach	Sr.	15 blocks in 66 tries; 41 kills in 186 hits.
Elvin Hopkins	Patch	Sr.	127 kills, 40 blocks in 57 games.
Caitlin Laingen	Alconbury	Sr.	161 kills, 19 blocks, 106 digs, 154 svc. pts.
Ashley Lariviere	Lakenheath	Sr.	6 blocks (4 stuffs), 9 kills, 7 digs per game.
Ashley Mead	Aviano	Sr.	56 kills, 15 aces in 18 sets at D-2 tourney.
Outside hitters			
Lindsay Albert	Frankfurt Int.	Soph.	18 kills/game; 80-for-80 serves in tourney.
Natasha Holan	Heidelberg	Jr.	365 kills (136 pct.); 11 solo blocks.
Kasy'e Lalau	Patch	Soph.	168 kills, 67 aces in 57 games.
Liz Lally	Sigonella	Sr.	63 kills, 12 blocks, 36 aces in Euro tourney.
Heather Steele	Ramstein	Sr.	79 kills, 95 digs in 46 games.
Second team			
Player	School	Class	Position
Kelsey Anderson	London Central	Soph.	Outside hitter
Carly Bascom	Alconbury	Soph.	Outside hitter
Katie Cordova	Ramstein	Sr.	Setter
Kelsey Garrity	Black Forest Academy	Jr.	Setter/middle blocker
Heather Hall	Patch	Sr.	Setter
Allison Hazen	Ansbach	Sr.	Middle blocker
Jessica Linka	Vitsek	Sr.	Setter
Lindsay Mansfield	Lakenheath	Soph.	Middle blocker
Alana Nemeka	Würzburg	Sr.	Setter
Tiffany Nemeka	Heidelberg	Jr.	Setter
Julia Robertson	Black Forest Academy	Jr.	Outside hitter

Selection panel

Rich Bennett, Heidelberg; Sharon Bryant, Ramstein; Pam Hillestad, Aviano; Susan Payne, London Central; Kori Pollock, Vitsek

The first team:



Albert



Britton



Holan



Hopkins



Laingen



Lalau



Lally



Lariviere



Mariz



Mead



Palaschak



Steele

Lima rejoins Royals with 1-year pact

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jose Lima rejoined the Kansas City Royals when he agreed to a one-year contract Saturday, hoping to provide stability and leadership to a rotation that was awful last season.

Lima, who pitched for the Royals in 2003, spent last season with Los Angeles, going 13-5 with a 4.07 ERA. He walked 34 and struck out 93 in 170 innings, then threw a shutout in the NL playoffs against St. Louis.

In 12 major league seasons, the right-hander is 84-82 with a 5.00 ERA. His best stretch came in 1998 and 1999, when he went 16-8 and 21-10, respectively, for the Houston Astros.

"He's a proven guy that can give you innings and wants the ball in big situations, so we're glad to have him," Royals general manager Allard Baird said.

Terms of the deal were not immediately available.

Two years ago, Kansas City plucked Lima from the roster of the Newark Bears of the independent Atlantic League at midseason. His 8-3 record with a 4.91 ERA in 14 starts helped the Royals to their first winning record in a non-strike year since 1993.

Last season, the Royals lost a team-record 104 games as injuries kept their pitching staff unsettled throughout. The staff had only three shutouts and had the AL's worst ERA (5.15). Late in the season, things got so bad that left-hander Darrell Maibach blamed his league-high 19 losses and 5.61 ERA on poor run support and ineffective relievers.

"It's a pitching standpoint, we're going young," Baird said. "We really needed an innings guy who can add to our rotation — not only to add stability, but to protect our bullpen."



Some fans show their feelings before the Montreal Expos' final home game last Sept. 29. The Expos will move to Washington, D.C. next season.

Gone, and soon to be forgotten

BY SEAN FARRELL
For The Associated Press

MONTREAL — The artificial turf is gone, leaving a concrete floor at barren Olympic Stadium and an even harder truth in Montreal: The Expos are long gone.

Since the end of the season, Claude Delorme, the Expos' executive vice president for business affairs, has overseen the winding up of the team's operations.

"There's no doubt that we prolonged our life," Delorme said. "We were able to extend our-

After 36 years, the Montreal Expos are reduced to bleak empty spaces

selves a few extra years that people didn't think we would."

Delorme's unenviable new role began in earnest on Sept. 29 when team president Tony Tavares confirmed the franchise's long-anticipated move to Washington, D.C., for 2005. The Expos played their final game at Olympic Stadium that evening, an anticlimactic 9-1 loss to Florida.

Now, the protective screen behind home plate is rolled up, though it remains suspended from the desolate stadium's roof for the moment. The padded blue outfield walls — 325 feet in the corners, and 404 feet to dead center — have been placed in storage in the bowels of the building.

Nets that served as foul poles have been removed, though the bright orange lines on the roof survive as reminders of a Dave Kingman moonshot that necessitated a new ground rule and a perilous paint job.

A familiar and long-serving reminder of the longest home in stadium history has been removed, though.

There is now an empty space where Seat 13 used to be in Section 351, Row C among the rows of grungy burnt orange seats in the stadium's distant middle deck. The yellow seat that marked Willie Stargell's mammoth 535-foot homer off Wayne Twitchell on Nov. 20, 1978, has gone to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Back in the team's offices, a nondescript black binder sits on a shelf behind Delorme. He began putting it together three years

ago and said it proved an invaluable resource in winding up the team's operations in Montreal.

"It's basically a to-do list," Delorme said. "There were pages for every department and every individual. From disposal of the office furniture to ensuring that the alarm and telephone systems were canceled, it addressed the nuts and bolts of our operations."

The worst part of the job for Delorme was whittling down the staff. No one was surprised by the move, though the shock was significant after years of rumors. "The human factor was definitely by far the biggest issue I had to deal with," Delorme said. "I really thought that we were all prepared mentally for this, but when it happened it was a lot more severe than we probably all anticipated. It was a family setting here and it was very emotional."

The Expos' remaining skeleton staff is down to 10 people. This Wednesday, the club set up card tables for a farewell lunch as several more long-serving employees worked their final day.

"I don't think I've had the opportunity to really reflect and say, 'Wow, this is finished. It's time to turn the page,'" Delorme said. "It's probably going to happen in the next two weeks, during the Christmas holidays." Media relations and services director Monique Gironx finished up work in her empty office Wednesday after sending out the Expos' last official press release, which indicated how the team's artifacts were being distributed among various caretaker institutions.

An original employee who joined the expansion franchise in November 1968, Gironx was in good spirits despite the bleak environment.

"It's just like any other thing, it's the end of an era — thank you, goodbye," Gironx said, breaking into resigned laughter. "I don't have any hard feelings. It's been a great ride. The only thing I regret is that we didn't have the downtown stadium. That would have been a big asset for the city."

Condominiums are under construction on the site just south of the Bell Centre, where the failed stadium project would have been built.

The only championship in the Expos' 36-year history was the 1981 NL East title, when Montreal won a playoff against Philadelphia after finishing first in the division during the second half of the strike-shortened season.

The team's mascot, a fuzzy orange Muppet-inspired character named Yoppii, will remain in Quebec with its trademark exclamation point on his back. Enormously popular with children, Yoppii nonetheless will be stripped of the team's logos, which will remain property of the franchise once his rights are transferred.

For the time being, Yoppii and Dodgers closer Eric Gagne, a Montreal native who grew up within blocks of the stadium, likely will remain the biggest links between baseball and the city that allowed Jackie Robinson to break the game's color barrier with the minor league Royals in 1946.

While she doesn't see baseball returning to Montreal any time soon, Gironx wouldn't rule out the possibility much farther down the road.

"It's a big market," Gironx said. "You never know."

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Heisman winner Leinart also AP's player of year

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Matt Leinart found a comfort zone this season. No longer worried about losing his job, the easygoing Southern California quarterback became the unquestioned leader of the Trojans. He performed the job so well in his second year as a starter that he also became The Associated Press player of the year.

"A year of experience opens up so much," the Heisman Trophy winner said.

"You've been around. You're a veteran. You've been playing for a year. You can get so much better in a year or so."

Leinart has completed 66 percent of his passes for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns, guiding the top-ranked Trojans to an Orange Bowl matchup with No. 2 Oklahoma and last year's AP player of the year, Jason White.

The BCS national title game will be college football's first matchup of players with Heisman trophies. White took home last year's Heisman.

The AP player of the year voting was closer than this season's Heisman balloting, but the final order was similar. Leinart received 17 votes from a nationwide panel of 64 media members.

White and his freshman teammate, Adrian Peterson, tied for second with 12 votes each.

USC tailback Reggie Bush was fourth with 11 votes and Utah quarterback Alex Smith had nine votes. Texas tailback Cedric Benson received two votes and Louis-

AP Player of the Year voting

Player, Team	Votes
Jason White, USC	17
Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma	12
Jason Smith, Oklahoma	12
Reggie Bush, USC	11
Jeff Tedford, California	9
Cedric Benson, Texas	9
Stefan Lefors, Louisville	1

ville quarterback Stefan Lefors got one.

In the Heisman balloting, Leinart easily beat out Peterson, who took second by a slim margin over White. Smith was fourth and Bush fifth.

Leinart is the fifth straight quarterback to win the AP award, following White, Iowa's Brad Banks, Florida's Rex Grossman and Oklahoma's Josh Heupel.

The award was established in 1958, and Texas tailback Ricky Williams was the first to win it.

Leinart became the Trojans' starting quarterback last season, taking over for departed 2002 Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer.

He won a four-way battle in the preseason for the job and it took him awhile to stop looking over his shoulder to see if he was about to be taken out of the game.

"This year has been more fun because I haven't felt as much pressure," the junior said.

Playing with two NFL-caliber wideouts and behind one of the best lines in the country, Leinart passed for 3,556 yards and 38 touchdowns and led USC to a share of the national title in 2003.

This year, with receivers Mike Williams and Keary Colbert gone and the line retooled, Leinart was

key in pulling together the new pieces and helping the Trojans go 12-0.

"I knew going in that I was going to have take on a different perspective," Leinart said.

And he did so without any prompting from coach Pete Carroll or offensive coordinator Norm Chow.

"I took it upon myself just to be the leader," he said. "I really didn't have to change anything, just to carry the guys along until they get comfortable."

"I'm not a real vocal guy, but I can be," he said.

The left-hander's laid-back leadership has set the tone for the Trojans. His poise and patience were invaluable in come-from-behind road victories over Virginia Tech, Stanford and Oregon State. He threw for 761 yards with six touchdowns and one interception in those games.

Leinart's consistency has been remarkable. The Trojans are 24-1 with him as a starter and have won 21 straight, heading into the BCS national title game.

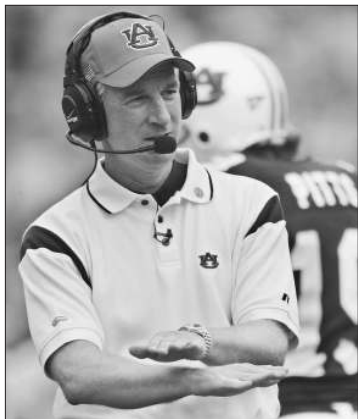
Leinart has thrown at least two touchdown passes 10 times this season and 22 times in his career. USC's last game, a 29-24 victory over UCLA, was the first of his career without a touchdown pass.

Leinart has said he intends to return to USC for his senior year, but it's looking like he's a lock to be a high first-round NFL draft pick. He could even meet Palmer again and go first overall.

"I'm aware of the opportunity," Leinart said. "We'll see what happens."



Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart has completed 66 percent of his passes for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns, guiding the top-ranked Trojans to an Orange Bowl matchup with No. 2 Oklahoma.



A year after almost losing his job, Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville guided the Tigers (12-0) to a Sugar Bowl matchup with Virginia Tech.

AP voters select Auburn's Tuberville as college football coach of the year

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tommy Tuberville followed the most difficult season of his coaching career with the best.

A year after he was nearly replaced by Auburn, Tuberville is The Associated Press coach of the year.

"I learned a lot last year from what we went through at the end of the season," he said. "I've been more relaxed this season."

In his sixth season at Auburn, Tuberville has led the third-ranked Tigers to a 12-0 regular season and its first Southeastern Conference championship in 15 years.

"It's probably been my easiest season as a head coach because of the great senior leadership this team has," Tuberville said.

"Coaches tend to think the world is on their shoulders. I've delegated more authority this season than before. Because of that I think it's been an easier year."

But not quite perfect, despite the perfect record.

The Tigers failed to reach the Orange Bowl to play for the Bowl Championship Series national title. Auburn never could get past Oklahoma and Southern California in the BCS standings and will play Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 3.

Tuberville did far better in the coach of the year voting than his team did in the polls. He was the 63 votes from the panel of media members.

Utah coach Urban Meyer was second with 14 votes. Meyer led the Utes to an unbeaten season and a berth in the BCS before taking the Florida job.

USC's Pete Carroll and Iowa's Kirk Ferentz received four votes, California's Jeff Tedford got three votes and Texas-El Paso's Mike Price got two. Oklahoma's Bob Stoops and Louisville's Bobby Petrino each received one vote.

Tuberville is the second straight SEC coach to win the AP award. LSU's Nick Saban was last year's winner.

AP Coach of the Year voting

Coach, Team	Votes
Tommy Tuberville, Auburn	35
Urban Meyer, Utah	14
Pete Carroll, USC	4
Kirk Ferentz, Iowa	4
Jeff Tedford, California	3
Mike Price, UTEP	2
Bobby Petrino, Louisville	1
Bob Stoops, Oklahoma	1

As disappointing as being left out of the title game has been for Tuberville and his undefeated Tigers, this season has been far more enjoyable than last.

The Tigers began the 2003 campaign ranked in the top 10 and favored to win the SEC. But they lost their first two games of the season and stumbled to a disappointing 8-5 finish. There was speculation late in the season Tuberville might be on the way out.

It almost happened. It became public that Auburn officials, including the university president, had covertly courted Louisville coach Bobby Petrino to replace Tuberville.

"A little bizarre is an understatement," Tuberville said.

Tulsa men's hoop coach Phillips resigns

The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — John Phillips resigned Saturday as Tulsa's basketball coach after opening 2-5. Phillips led Tulsa to the NCAA tournament in his first two seasons, but the Golden Hurricane slipped to 9-20 last year and have lost four of their past five games this season.

"The last couple of months have been very difficult for me, my family and the players," Phillips said in a statement.

"Sometimes, change can bring about growth. My hope is that all TU fans will support the players through the remainder of the season and we will all witness tremendous progress."

Assistant coach Alvin Williamson will take over on an interim basis. The school offered Phillips a chance to stay on as assistant athletic director.

"Obviously, this is not the way that I envisioned becoming a head coach," said Williamson, who also played at Tulsa. "Coach Phillips has been very influential in my coaching career. As coaches, we're going to put our entire energy into this basketball team and our next opponent."

Phillips was hired in April 2001, inheriting a strong program built up by former coaches Tubby Smith, Bill Self and Buzz Peterson. Tulsa went to the NCAA tournament six times in eight years before Phillips took over.

The Golden Hurricane opened this season with a loss to Wright State, then were blown out by crosstown rival Oral Roberts. The final straw was a 91-85 home loss Wednesday to Lamar — a team that hadn't won a road game in more than a year.

Phillips was 61-42 in three-plus seasons at Tulsa.

Williamson, 31, is in his fourth season on the Tulsa coaching staff after previous stints as an assistant at Tulane, Illinois State and Washington State.

LSU's Saban agrees to coach

Five-year contract worth nearly \$25 million has not yet been signed

By MARK LONG
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — LSU coach Nick Saban finally turned pro Saturday, prompting a Christmas night celebration at the home of Miami Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga.

"My wife and I high-fived each other," Huizenga said.

The billionaire businessman anxiously watched from Fort Lauderdale as Saban held a televised news conference in Orlando to announce he would accept an offer to coach the Dolphins.

Saban, courted repeatedly by the NFL in recent years, mulled over the offer for three days before disclosing his decision shortly after the Tigers arrived in Orlando for their Jan. 1 bowl game against Iowa.

"It's a tremendous challenge for me," he said, "and a great opportunity for me and my family."

No contract has been signed, but Saban agreed to a five-year deal worth almost \$5 million per year.

He first interviewed for the job last week at his home in Baton Rouge, La., hosting Huizenga and president Eddie Jones for dinner. He met with them again Friday and said he agreed in principle to a deal.

But Huizenga said he was unsure they had an agreement until the news conference.

"If somebody held a gun to my head 10 minutes ago, I couldn't tell you," Huizenga said moments after Saban's announcement. "I had a good feeling, but I really did not know."

Saban, 53, will coach LSU in the bowl game before taking over a long-prod franchise enduring its worst season since the 1960s. He becomes the sixth coach in team history, and the fourth since Huizenga took over as owner in 1994.

Touted as NFL material even when he was at Michigan State in the late 1990s, Saban has turned down previous overtures from at



Nick Saban, who announced on Saturday that he will take over a Dolphins team coming off its worst season since the 1960s, will coach LSU against Iowa in the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1 in Orlando, Fla.

least five pro teams, including Atlanta and Chicago a year ago. He has been considered the favorite to become the Dolphins' coach since Dave Wannstedt resigned last month when they were 1-8.

Upon arriving in Orlando, Saban met with his players to inform them he was leaving. Accompanied by four uniformed Louisiana police officers, he then walked through a nearly deserted hotel lobby to a huge ballroom, where he spoke to about a dozen reporters and cameramen.

He said the Dolphins' job carried special appeal even though they're one of the NFL's worst teams at 3-11.

"I have a lot of respect and gratitude for everybody who has been

interested in me through the years," Saban said. "I just felt like this opportunity, with this organization, was one of the best that's ever been presented to me in terms of how you can control your destiny in the organization, the commitment the organization has to winning and the tradition that they have in winning."

Huizenga's willingness to give Saban full authority over the football operation could mean the demotion or departure of general manager Rick Spielman.

Saban is 9-2 this season and 48-15 in five years at LSU, taking his team to a bowl game every season.

"It's the most self-gratifying experience I've had as a coach," Saban said. "But I've always been

driven by challenges — the next challenge that makes driven people want to take advantage of the next opportunity."

The highest-paid coach in college football, Saban is in his first season of an \$18.45 million, seven-year contract at LSU, but the deal has no buyout clause penalizing him for taking another job.

LSU went 3-8 the year before he arrived and 8-1 in his first season. A Southeastern Conference title followed in 2001, and he led the Tigers to last season's BCS national championship.

"You look around and say, 'OK, who's out there that's better than that?'" Huizenga said. "I couldn't find anybody."

The other candidates interviewed by Huizenga were former Oakland Raiders coach Art Shell and Dolphins interim coach Jim Bates. Many Miami players lobbied for Huizenga to keep Bates, who is 2-3 since being promoted from defensive coordinator. His team plays Cleveland on Sunday night.

Bates may return to his former job next season.

"I think if we talk about it, we'll know if it works for both of us," Saban said. He and Bates were assistants together with the Browns in 1991-1993.

Also on that staff was Saban's close friend Bill Belichick, coach of the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots. They now become AFC East rivals.

Saban's other NFL experience was as an assistant coach with the Houston Oilers in 1988-89.

LSU defensive end Melvin Oliver said players recognized Saban had an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

"We're taking it in stride," Oliver said. "He's got to do what's best for him and his family. We understand fully."

Oliver also said Saban's decision would not affect the team's preparations for the bowl game.

"The coach is dedicated, and this won't be a distraction," Oliver said.

Vanderbilt RB shot to death in Tampa

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Vanderbilt running back Kwane Doster was shot to death early Sunday when someone fired at the parked car he was in, police said.

Doster, 21, of Tampa, died at Tampa General Hospital after being shot near the Ybor City nightlife district, police spokesman Joe Durkin said. Detectives were trying to find the killer and determine a motive.

Doster and two friends had stopped their car while "cruising around" when another car pulled up beside them, Durkin said. Several shots were fired at Doster's car, and one hit him in the chest while he was sitting behind the driver. No one else was hurt.

Sports briefs

"I don't believe any words were exchanged," Durkin said, adding that investigators believe Doster was the intended target.

Police believe three people were in the other car.

A message left for a Vanderbilt spokesman on Sunday was not immediately returned.

The junior running back ran for 437 yards and one touchdown this season for the Commodores (2-9). For his career, Doster had 1,621 yards rushing, 256 yards receiving and seven touchdowns.

Defending junior hockey champ U.S. opens with win
GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Dan

Fritzsche scored twice — including a tiebreaking short-handed goal — to lead the defending champion United States team to a 5-4 victory over Russia on Saturday night in the opening round of the World Junior Hockey Championships.

Fritzsche's second goal, scored midway through the second period, was the winner. The Americans took leads of 2-0, 3-2 and 4-3 against Russia, the tournament champion in 2002 and 2003.

Robbie Schremp, Chris Bourque and Drew Stafford had the other goals for the United States, which got 30 saves from Al Montoya of Michigan, a first-round draft pick of the New York Rangers.

Montoya made 12 saves in the third period.

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Broncos still in playoff race

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jake Plummer broke out of his slump with a nearly perfect start and kept the Denver Broncos in the playoff race.

Plummer threw for 303 yards and two touchdowns, and Reuben Droughns scored three TDs as the Broncos beat the Tennessee Titans 37-16 Saturday night to stay in at least a tie for the AFC's final wild-card slot going into the final week of the season.

Denver (9-6) had lost three of its last four games with two of those losses to teams with losing records, including last week's 45-17 rout at Kansas City. Plummer hurt Denver more than he helped with nine interceptions and only two touchdowns during that stretch.

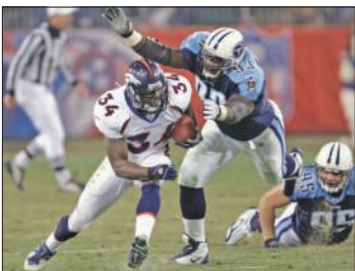
Against a defense missing six starters, Plummer had one pass intercepted, giving him an NFL-high 20 this season, but otherwise was superb.

The Broncos game coach Mike Shanahan his 100th regular-season victory with the franchise by handing his friend, Titans coach Jeff Fisher, his worst home loss in six seasons at The Coliseum. Seeing such a performance from his heavily criticized quarterback didn't hurt either.

"For him to come back and fight the way he did under the circumstances, I was pleased," Shanahan said.

The past month hadn't been easy for Plummer, who struggled on the field and off, even paying a fine last week for an obscene gesture. He couldn't have started this game any better.

He completed his first eight passes, had a perfect passer rating of 158.3 in the first quarter



Denver Broncos running back Reuben Droughns (34) scored three touchdowns and rushed for 91 yards against the Titans on Saturday.

and was 10-for-11 for 144 yards early in the second. He helped Denver score on its first three possessions for a 17-3 lead. He had a 23-yard TD pass to Droughns on the first drive for a lead the Broncos didn't relinquish.

Plummer was not sacked and finished 21-for-26.

"It is always good for a quarterback to have confidence, especially after all of the criticism," Denver receiver Ashley Lelie said.

"For him to step up and play like he did just shows what type of character he has. We all thank Jake for playing as well as he did."

Denver handed the Titans (4-11) their fifth straight loss by shutting down Billy Volek, who was trying to become the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 400 yards in three consecutive games.

Reggie Hayward had three of the Broncos' six sacks, and the defense also forced two turnovers and limited Tennessee to a season-low 153 yards of offense. The Titans dropped to 1-6 at home this season before a stadium that was nearly empty in the final minutes on the cold Christmas night.

"We wanted to bounce back," Hayward said. "We got embarrassed last week. We wanted to come back with a strong showing against Tennessee."

The Broncos even knocked Volek out of the game in the fourth quarter with a bruised left knee, forcing the Titans to use Doug Johnson for the first time this season, with Steve McNair wearing stretch clothes on the sideline because of his bruised chest.

Volek was 8-of-20 for 111 yards. X-rays of his knee were negative.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference									
National Conference									
Third Quarter									
Den—FG Elm 30, 35-0									
Den—Droughns 23 pass (Elm kick), 6:55									
A—68-0									
First downs									
Total yards									
Rushes-yards									
Passes-completed									
Punt Returns									
Kickoff Returns									
Interceptions Ret.									
Comp-Att-Int									
Sacks-Yards Lost									
Fumbles-Lost									
Penalties-Yards									
Time of Possession									
Individual Statistics									
Rushing—Denver, Droughns 29-142, Bell 12-44, Lelie 3-88, Droughns 2-30, Watts 2-29, Haje 2-11, Carswell 1-14, Bell 1-12, Tennessee, Mason 4-65, Truize 3-34, Bennett 2-36, Berlin 2-13, Azzam 1-10									
Passing—Denver, Plummer 21-26-13, Tennessee, Smith 14-29, Bell 12-44, Lelie 3-88, Droughns 2-30, Watts 2-29, Haje 2-11, Carswell 1-14, Bell 1-12, Tennessee, Mason 4-65, Truize 3-34, Bennett 2-36, Berlin 2-13, Azzam 1-10									
Missed field goal—Denver, Elm (34 WL).									

Chiefs 31, Raiders 30									
Oakland 7-14 3-30									
Kansas City 10-6 10-31									
First Quarter									
Oakland—Purter 5 pass from Collins (Janikowski kick), 13:25									
KC—Johnson 6 run (Tynes kick), 2:14									

Second Quarter									
Oakland—Crockett 2 pass from Green (Tynes kick), 11:40									
KC—Johnson 2 pass from Green (Tynes kick), 6:54									
Oakland—Purter 22 pass from Collins (Janikowski kick), 3:14									

Third Quarter									
Oakland—Johnson 40, 29									
KC—Johnson 4 run (Tynes kick), 6:11									
Oakland—Purter 46, 10:3									
Oakland—Purter 38, 22									

Fourth Quarter									
First downs									
Total yards									
Rushes-yards									
Passes-completed									
Punt Returns									
Kickoff Returns									
Comp-Att-Int									
Sacks-Yards Lost									
Fumbles-Lost									
Penalties-Yards									
Time of Possession									
Individual Statistics									
Rushing—Oakland, Farfaras 10-36, Crockett 10-32, Redmond 2-16, Zereoue 4-14, Kansas City, Johnson 1-11, Azzam 1-10, Johnson 2-8									
Oakland, Collins 18-37-21, Zereoue 4-38, Johnson 3-52, Redmond 3-24, Whitted 4-32, Azzam 1-11, Azzam 1-10, Johnson 2-8									
Kansas City, Johnson 11-124, Kemmer 6-29, Horn 4-43, Johnson 4-34, Parker 3-26, Hall 2-14, Dunn 1-13, Richardson 1-7									
Missed field goal—Kansas City, Tynes 43 (BK), Tynes 50 (SP)									

Late FG lifts Chiefs past Raiders

BY DOUG TUCKER

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — As the Kansas City Chiefs moved into position for the game-winning field goal, Lawrence Tynes was wishing he'd washed his car.

"That's always been the game-day good luck charm for Kansas City's rookie kicker. But he went ahead and drilled a 37-yarder with 22 seconds left, lifting the Chiefs to a 31-30 victory Saturday over the Oakland Raiders.

"It was too cold this morning (to wash the car)," Tynes said after booting his first game-winning field goal in the NFL. "I was thinking I should have washed it."

No matter how filthy Tynes' transportation might be, he probably would never have gotten on the field if not for Dante Hall's 49-yard kickoff return after Seattle's Janikowski's third field goal, a 46-yarder, put the Raiders on top 30-28 with 1:03 to play.

Hall waited as the expected kick bounced perfectly in his arms and then set sail behind some excellent blocks.

"Most teams in situations like that tend to sub out kickers," Hall said. "It was just a matter of catching it, finding the right bounce."

It was the fourth victory in a row for the Chiefs (7-8), whose Super Bowl hopes were dashed by opening 1-3 and enduring a four-game losing streak in the first half.

Janikowski scored the last nine points for Oakland (5-10) on three field goals, including a 45-yarder that made it 28-27 with 3:49 left.

"This is very frustrating," Oakland running back

Amos Zereoue said. "You can't ask for much more than we gave out there."

Hall was not stopped until Janikowski got him on the Raiders 36.

Then Trent Green, whose fumble had led to Janikowski's go-ahead field goal, completed passes to Chris Horn and Tony Gonzalez and Tynes trotted onto the field.

"Anybody who says they're not nervous in a situation like that is lying," said Tynes. "My mom's been sick and she was here for the first time. It's pretty special. It's pretty cool."

Holding for Tynes, who missed from 50 yards and had another fumble on the Oakland 43, was punter Nick Murphy, who was signed at midweek.

"We knew it was going to come down to stopping them on defense one more time," Oakland defensive tackle Warren Sapp said. "We just couldn't get the little fella down. He made an excellent return."

For much of the game, two of the worst defenses in the NFL seemed bent on proving statistics don't always lie.

But it looked like the last crucial mistake belonged to the Kansas City offense when Ted Washington recovered Green's fumble on the Oakland 43 and put a 1-12 to play and Janikowski converted a field goal. He also had a 40-yarder that put the Raiders on top 24-21 in the final seconds of the third quarter.

Green hit 32 of 45 passes for 358 yards and two touchdowns to tight Tony Gonzalez. Oakland's Kerry Collins was 18-for-37 for 217 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

"Thanks to the special teams for saving me today," said Green.

White: DE helped guide Packers to Super Bowl

WHITE, THE PACKER

White retired after the Panthers last season and played for \$1 million.

"I will always miss the locker room and the guys, but I know God's will for me to move on to other challenges because it's not in me like it used to be," White said at the time.

White's last season was disappointing in many respects. He had a career-low 5½ sacks with only 27 tackles. He didn't show the same pass-rushing skills that had made him such a dominating force.

White spent eight years with the Eagles and six with the Packers before a final one with the Panthers.

Remarkably durable, White missed only one game in his last 12 seasons and started all but one game during that span.

"Reggie's records and accomplishments say it all," said George Seifert, who coached him on the Panthers. "It is a hall of fame player and possibly the best defensive lineman ever to play the game."

He helped lead the Packers to consecutive Super Bowl appearances, including a victory over New England in 1997, when he set a Super Bowl record with three sacks.

White worked tirelessly with inner-city kids and to bridge the racial and economic divide. But his most lasting triumph was when he gave a speech in which he denounced homosexuality and used ethnic stereotypes. White later apologized for any harm his comments may have caused.

White was 39 when he finished his NFL career with Carolina, leaving the game with 198 sacks. That was actually White's third retirement. He retired for one day before the 1998 season, but then said God had told him he needed to play again, and he returned to the Packers.

White retired again after the 1998 season and took a year off from football. After the Packers allowed him out of his contract,

Packers dedicate division-clincher to teammate

WR Ferguson still experiencing numbness in side after clothesline hit

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

This one was for Fergie.
The Green Bay Packers dedicated their division-clinching victory over Minnesota on Christmas Eve to wide receiver Robert Ferguson, who is still experiencing numbness on his left side a week after a clothesline hit by Donovan Darius that drew a \$75,000 fine from the NFL.

As the Packers celebrated their third straight NFC North crown, they carried coaches' greaseboards inscribed with "Ferg 89" and "4 U Fergie."

"This one's for you!" wide receiver Donald Driver yelled into his cell phone after the Packers' 34-31 victory.

Ferguson didn't make the trip

after taking a vicious hit that left him temporarily paralyzed below the waist and in the hospital for two days. His return this season is uncertain.

Ferguson gave his teammates a pep talk at Lambeau Field on Thursday before they flew to Minneapolis. Even though he stayed back, the Packers set up his locker at the Metrodome with his No. 89 jersey as though he were going to play.

And coach Mike Sherman awarded Ferguson a game ball after the Packers triumphed on Ryan Longwell's fourth game-winning field goal in the last seven weeks.

"This game is for Fergie because Fergie is the heart and soul of this football team in many ways," Sherman said, referring to

the fourth-year receiver who is noted for playing through pain.

"He types what you want as a Green Bay Packer because he lays it out every day in practice and every game."

With Ferguson sidelined, the Packers promoted Andrae Thurman from their practice squad and he caught two passes Friday, including Brett Favre's first one.

Javon Walker caught five passes for 90 yards, including a blitz-beater from the Vikings' 38 with 25 seconds left that covered 31 yards to set up Longwell's winner.

Favre, who won for the third time in his last five trips to the Metrodome, released the ball just as he was getting pummeled by the unblocked blitzers.

Driver had 11 catches for 162

yards and a game-tying touchdown on fourth-and-goal with 3:34 left. His biggest reception, however, was a 20-yarder on third-and-10 from the Vikings 20 at the start of the winning drive.

"They didn't just do it today," Sherman said. "They've done it all year long. A few years ago people were concerned that we didn't have quality receivers, but I think there's an exclamation point after our receivers this year that work they've done."

Walker, a Pro Bowl pick, has 86 catches for 1,300 yards and 11 TDs, and Driver has 83 receptions for 1,160 yards and a career-high nine scores. But the receiver on everybody's mind was home, enjoying the game on TV.

"It was won for Fergie, there's no doubt about it," Favre said. "It was a huge part of their team, even if he didn't make it today."



Green Bay Packers WR Javon Walker carries a sign with the name of injured Robert Ferguson after the Packers' 34-31 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Friday in Minneapolis.

Eagles RB Westbrook wants to make up for lost time in playoffs

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Brian Westbrook knows how teammate Terrell Owens feels.

Owens will miss the rest of the regular season and the NFL playoffs while recovering from ankle surgery. He could return if Philadelphia makes it to the Super Bowl.

Westbrook missed last year's playoffs with a torn triceps. He was the Eagles' biggest offensive playmaker last season, and his absence was painfully felt in an NFC title game loss in which Philadelphia scored only three points against Carolina.

"Any time anybody gets hurt for any length of time, you're definitely disappointed, you're definitely sad for them," Westbrook said. "I've been in that similar situation, so I understand exactly what he's going through."

This year, the versatile Westbrook is healthy and ready to make up for lost time — and for the loss of Owens. Westbrook has emerged as one of the top running backs in the NFL in his first season as Philadelphia's primary back, becoming a threat to score however he touches the ball.

He is Philly's leading rusher with 812 yards and three touchdowns, and is second in receptions with 73 for 707 yards and six touchdowns. Westbrook missed one game this season with a cracked rib, but the 5-foot-10, 205-pound back has been durable and never concerns head coach Andy Reid with the rigors of playing as a featured back.

The memories of sitting out last year's playoffs are fresh for Westbrook and coach Andy Reid, who is mulling how much he's going to play his starters in the last two regular-season games. Though

he'll stick with the regular lineup for Monday's game against the St. Louis Rams, it seems likely Westbrook won't play much.

"I don't want him to get hurt, sure, but I do want him to practice and do the things he needs to do to play the game," said Reid, whose team already has clinched home field throughout the playoffs.

The Eagles would be wise to show caution, especially with Owens out. No one else in their receiving corps has the game-breaking ability of Owens or Westbrook.

Westbrook knows that defenses will key on him, but he expects to remain the No. 1 option on offense.

"I would expect to be, but I think coach will do a good job of spreading the ball around," Westbrook said. "He's done a great job of calling plays. I don't think that will stop just because T.O. isn't here."

If Westbrook gets injured, the Eagles would be in serious trouble. Veteran Dorsey Levens is the only reliable option in the backfield, and it would be tough for him to handle 15 to 20 carries a game.

"Obviously, I don't want him to get hurt," Reid said.

For all Westbrook has accomplished he has just four fewer receptions than Owens this season — he was not selected for the Pro Bowl. Nine Eagles were chosen for the game, in the most representatives voted for the one team since 1998, but Westbrook was left out.

"When you look at things like that, sometimes things pop up as far as why didn't he make it? Was it because of his name?" quarterback Donovan McNabb said. "We all know in our eyes and our mind that he's definitely a Pro Bowler



Philadelphia Eagles RB Brian Westbrook, above, who missed last year's playoffs with a torn triceps, will need to play a bigger role in the offense now that Terrell Owens has been sidelined by an ankle injury.

and he's one of the best players at his position."

Reid said Westbrook was "a Pro Bowl-caliber player."

While Westbrook tried downplaying the snub, saying Green Bay's Ahmad Green, New York's Ty Barber and Seattle's Shaun Alexander all were deserving of their selection, he could not hide his disappointment.

"I think I did a lot of good things for this team," Westbrook said. "You always want to be recognized by your peers."

Perhaps Westbrook was overlooked because he hasn't hit the 1,000-yard rushing mark, the mythical barrier used to judge a running back's season.

"It's hard to get 1,000 yards here every year and that's just because of the scheme that we run and the offense that we run," Westbrook said. "But you can still be a productive running back here under those conditions. I think I've done a pretty good job of doing what the coaches asked me to do."

Now they're asking him to stay healthy, make plays and finally get the Eagles to the Super Bowl.

Shoulder injury keeps Vick on bench Sunday

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick was inactive for Sunday's game against the New Orleans Saints.

Vick injured the shoulder of his throwing arm in the Falcons' 34-31 overtime victory against Carolina. It was the first game Vick missed since Nov. 23, 2003 against the Tennessee Titans.

The Falcons had already clinched a first-round bye in the playoffs entering the game and can't clinch anything else.

Wearing shorts and a gray shirt, Vick met his cousin, Saints quarterback Aaron Brooks, at midfield during the pregame warmups.

Vick needs 80 yards to break Bobby Douglass' mark for yards rushing by a quarterback in a season and 111 yards to become the first quarterback to rush for 1,000 in a season.

Jaguars RB Taylor inactive against Houston

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville Jaguars running back Fred Taylor was inactive Sunday against the Houston Texans, ending his streak of consecutive starts at 46 games.

Rookie Greg Jones made his first career start.

Taylor missed practice all week with a sprained left knee and had been listed as questionable. He was injured during last week's victory at Green Bay.

Only Curtis Martin of the New York Jets and LaDainian Tomlinson of San Diego had more consecutive starts than Taylor.

Taylor missed significant parts of his first four seasons with recurring injuries, but he had started every game the last three years.

Steelers' Stacy out again

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers' inactive backup quarterback Steve Wallace missed Sunday's game against the Baltimore Ravens, the sixth time in eight games he was

held out with a sore hamstring. Stacy, who has played only twice since Oct. 31, was replaced by Jerome Bettis. Bettis rushed for at least 100 yards in each of the five previous starts he made for Staley.

Staley also was held out of the Steelers' previous game, a 33-30 victory over the New York Giants on Dec. 18 in which Bettis gained 140 yards on 36 carries.

Pats RB Faulk, WR Johnson out for Jets game

FOXBORO, Mass. — Running back Kevin Faulk and wide receiver Bethel Johnson are among the New England Patriots who were to miss Sunday's game against the New York Jets.

Team spokesman Stacey James said cornerback Randall Gay, safety Dexter Reid and linebacker Matt Chatham have also had their conditions downgraded and will miss the game.

The Patriots' defensive secondary has already been hard-hit by injuries, with Tyronne Poulk and Ty Law missing most of the season and Asante Samuel listed as questionable for Sunday's game with a shoulder injury.

The loss of Faulk (knee) and Johnson (thigh) also leaves the Patriots without two of their top kick returners.

Giants place Hand on IR

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants placed defensive tackle Norman Hand on injured reserve Saturday, ending his season.

Hand, a 10-year NFL veteran, had not played since injuring his groin in a Nov. 28 game against Philadelphia. He had 15 tackles and one sack this season.

The team also signed offensive lineman Morgan Peters to its practice roster from its practice squad.

SPORTS



Pistons win peaceful
rematch with Pacers,
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Defensive great White dies at 43

**Cause of death
uncertain for
former NFL
sack leader**

The Associated Press

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. — Reggie White, one of the greatest defensive players in NFL history, died Sunday, his wife said. He was 43.

"Today our beloved husband, father and friend passed away," White's wife, Sara, said in a statement through a family pastor. "His family appreciates your thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of Reggie White. We want to thank you in advance for honoring our privacy."

A cause of death was not immediately known.

A two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year, White played a total of 15 years with Philadelphia, Green Bay and Carolina. He retired in 2000 as the NFL's career leader in sacks with 198. The mark has since been passed by Bruce Smith.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of one of the greatest men ever to play the game of football," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said in a statement. "On behalf of the entire Eagles family, our condolences go out to his wife, Sara, to his children, and to all those who have been touched by Reggie throughout his life. His legacy on and off the football field will never be forgotten."

A member of the NFL's 75th anniversary team, White was elected to the Pro Bowl a record 13 straight times from 1986-98. He was the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 1987 and 1998, and was also an ordained minister.

He began his career with the Memphis Showboats of the USFL in 1984, and joined the Philadelphia Eagles, who held his NFL rights, after the USFL folded in 1985.



MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/AP

Former Green Bay Packers defensive end Reggie White shows his intensity in this 1997 file photo. White, 43, died Sunday of a heart attack at his home in Huntersville, N.C., his wife Sara said. White was a two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year during his 15 years in the league.

After eight years as an integral piece in Philadelphia's "Gang Green Defense," White signed as a free agent with Green Bay in 1993 for \$17 million over four years, huge for that era. His signing, along with a trade for quarterback Brett Favre, brought a measure of respectability back to the

franchise and he was the first major black player to sign with the Packers as a free agent.

His decision to choose the Packers was a surprise. During much of his tour to various teams, he suggested he would prefer a major city, where he could minister to black youth.

"That's what changed the football fortunes of this franchise. It was huge," Packers President Bob Harlan said Sunday of White's signing. "Everyone thought the last place he would sign was Green Bay and it was monumental because not only did he sign but he recruited for

Green Bay and got guys like Sean Jones to come here.

"He sent a message to the rest of the NFL that Green Bay was a great place to play and before that this was a place people didn't want to come."

SEE WHITE ON PAGE 34

**O'Neal fouls
out, but Bryant
misses chance
to lift Lakers
past former
teammate**

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**LSU's Saban
makes leap
to NFL, accepting
five-year deal
to coach Dolphins**

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**All-Europe volleyball
team loaded with
experience**

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